

FOCUS FOR THE UNFORESEEABLE
“Enoch”

FOCUS

Heb. 11:5-6

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6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Our theme for this year is...

VISION 20/20
HIS VISION. OUR FOCUS.

During these challenging days of the present pandemic, many people, including believers, are facing issues that a few months ago were simply **unforeseeable**. **Life is, unfortunately, a series of unforeseeable events.** For the next few weeks we will observe what the Bible says about how to handle such trying events, “*how to focus on the unforeseeable*.” We began three weeks ago with the principles found in 1 Jn. 5:1-5:

Two weeks ago, we considered Abel’s offering by faith in Heb. 11:4: “By faith Abel offered unto God...”

Last week, for Mother's Day, we looked at two mothers, Sara and Rahab, two women facing unforeseeable challenges, who walked by faith:

SARA – THE IMPROBABLE PROGENITOR

RAHAB – THE IMPLAUSIBLE PROTECTOR

This morning, we will consider Enoch, a most unique man in all of history, who did not face death – the most unforeseeable challenge in a person's life.

Enoch could have personally known Adam and Eve, Seth, and others, to hear their first-hand accounts of the Creation and the Creator. According to Jude 1:14, Enoch prophesied of the Second Coming of Christ. In Gen. 5:24, the Scripture states that “Enoch walked with God: and he *was* not; for God took him.”

Enoch faced the unforeseeable by having close fellowship with God, which is where we pick up the narrative in Heb. 11:5:

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6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

- Enoch's faith produced the most unique transformation in history!

I. THE CHANGE WITHIN THE UNFORESEEABLE – “By faith Enoch was translated...”

A. The Powerful Catalyst – “By faith...”

B. The Prodigious Culmination “...was translated...”

- The ultimate unforeseeable was the radical change in Enoch – translated.

Original Word: μετατίθημι

Transliteration: metatithemi

Definition: to transfer, change

Usage: (a) I transfer, mid: I go over to another party, desert, (b) I change.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3346.htm>

- Today, we can only imagine what being “translated” was like, let alone what it must have been like for Enoch!
- The unforeseeable for Enoch was being changed from mortal to immortal, temporal to eternal, from earthly to heavenly, and from a natural body to spiritual body.
- When a person is born-again, an unforeseeable radical change takes place!

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore **if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; **behold, all things are become new.**

- Before we have a radical change, we encounter specific consequences.

II. THE CONSEQUENCES BEFORE THE UNFORESEEABLE – “...before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”

A. The “Pre – translation” – “...before his translation...”

- Everyone has a “pre-salvation” testimony, that is not “so good.”

Rom. 3:10 As it is written, **There is none righteous, no, not one:**

11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; **there is none that doeth good, no, not one.**

13 Their throat *is* an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips:

14 Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness:

15 Their feet *are* swift to shed blood:

16 Destruction and misery *are* in their ways:

17 And **the way of peace have they not known:**

18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

- Everyone has a “post-salvation testimony, and it is VERY good!

Rom. 10:13 For **whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

17 So then **faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

Jn. 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

B. The Personal Testimony – “...his...he...he...”

Heb. 11:5b “...for before **his** translation **he** had this testimony, that **he** pleased God.”

- Salvation is PERSONAL – note the personal pronouns – “...his...he...he...”

Rom. 10:13 “Whosoever” = Πᾶς (singular)

Rom. 3:22 Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ **unto all and upon all them that believe**: for there is no difference:

- Salvation and pleasing God are equivalent terms – “...for before his translation he had this testimony, that **he pleased God.**”
- Before a believer goes to heaven, there should be a “walk” that testifies of a relationship with God – one concerned with pleasing Him.

Heb 13:6 But **without faith it is impossible to please him**: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

- Pleasing God, by faith, is the true mark of salvation seen in a believer's life.

III. THE CAUSE PRECIPITATING THE UNFORESEEABLE

Gen. 5:24, the Scripture states that “Enoch walked with God: and he *was* not; for God took him.

A. The Exceptional Walk – “Enoch walked with God”

- Enoch had a relationship with God that was beyond all others.
- Enoch did not have a Bible, yet, we have many verses directing our walk:

2 Cor. 5:7 (For **we walk by faith, not by sight:**)

Gal. 5:16 *This* I say then, **Walk in the Spirit**, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Eph. 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye **walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,**

Eph. 5:2 And **walk in love**, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. ...

8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

Col. 4:5 **Walk in wisdom toward them that are without**, redeeming the time.

1 Jn. 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so **to walk, even as he walked.**

3 Jn. 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that **my children walk in truth.**

B. The Extraordinary Way – “...and he *was* not; for God took him.”

Heb. 11:5 **By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him:** for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

- Enoch could hardly have imagined the unforeseeable he was to face.
- Enoch was spared the inevitable unforeseeable challenge that we all face – DEATH.
- For a believer, we have hope for the same change via the “RAPTURE.”

1 Cor. 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, **then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.**

55 **O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?**

56 **The sting of death *is* sin;** and the strength of sin *is* the law.

57 But **thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Isa. 25:8 **He will swallow up death in victory**; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken *it*.

9 And it shall be said **in that day**, Lo, this *is* our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: **this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.**

- Whether we face the unforeseeable in death or the rapture – we walk by faith.

Heb. 9:27 And as **it is appointed unto men once to die**, but after this the judgment:

- If we are walking in darkness right now, we keep walking by faith and get past the darkness.

Isa. 50:10 Who *is* among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, **that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.**

Mic. 7:8 “...**when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.**”

- The present pandemic may appear to be a darkness over the world, but there is hope for those who walk by faith in the light of the Lord:

Eph. 5:8 For **ye were sometimes darkness**, but **now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:**

1 Jn. 1:7 **But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another**, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Conclusion

- Enoch walked by faith, and his life was transformed.
- When we walk by faith, with the Lord, our lives are transformed, too.
- A believer's walk is always in accordance with the Word of God.

Psa. 119:105 **Thy word** is a **lamp unto my feet**, and **a light unto my path**.

130 **The entrance of thy words giveth light**; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

Rom. 10:17 So then **faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God**.

- The future is always unforeseeable for us, but never for the Lord.

Prov. 3:5 **Trust in the LORD with all thine heart**; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and **he shall direct thy paths**.