

Walking with God

#0845

Study given by W. D. Frazee—December 2, 1960

"And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him" Genesis 5:24.

Why would we be interested in Enoch walking with God? That has been a long time ago. Way back in the early history of this world. We will look at Hebrews and see what it says about this man Enoch.

"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" Hebrews 11:5.

Enoch was translated. What does that mean? It means he left this world and went to heaven without seeing death. If he had seen death, he would not have been translated.

Has that ever happened to anyone else? Elijah. Elijah wanted to die once, but he didn't die. That was not God's plan for him. He has never died. Enoch has never died. They are still alive up in heaven.

Who else? Nobody else? Christ is there, but He died. Moses is up there, but he died. Who else besides Enoch and Elijah is up there who were translated? Will there ever be any more? That is what makes it interesting. You and I are candidates for that glorious experience.

I would like to go to heaven without dying, wouldn't you? I don't want to die. Think of living up to the coming of Jesus, and being translated, leaving this world alive.

Some people are actually training now to get into some kind of equipment and machine and be shot off into space. Perhaps go to the moon. Some think they will get over to Mars or Venus. Honestly, if they were to elect me for the trip, I would decline it in that kind of equipment.

But there is a space trip I am very much interested in. The same one that Enoch and Elijah took. Being translated. Going way past the moon, Mars, Venus, and all the rest. On past the sun, through Orion, to the center of the universe. That is the glorious trip that awaits us.

Why is it that Enoch had that experience? That is the thing I want you to notice. Before his translation he had the testimony that he pleased God. Do you

suppose that before our translation we will have the testimony that we please God? Why, sure.

When you go back to Genesis 5 you will see one thing that Enoch did. That must be the thing that pleased God. What was it? He walked with God. You would be surprised how lonesome God is to have somebody to walk with Him. It pleased God so much when Enoch walked with him, and kept doing it.

I like the way the little girl put it. She came home from hearing about Enoch. She told her mother about it. She said, "Enoch was a good man who lived way back there. He and God used to go on walks together. They kept walking farther and farther from Enoch's home and closer and closer to God's home. One day God said to Enoch, "It is closer to My home than it is to yours. Come on home with Me."

That is just about what happened. The more Enoch walked with God the closer he got to heaven, and the further he got from this world. He wasn't one of those folks who think they can pull the world and God together and get each one to give a little and make peace. No. Enoch understood fully that in walking with God it meant to be separate from this world.

"And he was not; for God took him." I would like to walk with God like Enoch walked with Him. Wouldn't you? He walked with God for 300 years (Genesis 5:22). That's a long time. And he kept walking with God all that time.

Some people have a hard time walking with God for 300 minutes. Enoch did it for 300 years. What is the secret? We can all walk with God. That's what God wants us to do. We can do it the same as Enoch did. We are told he did not walk with God in a trance or a vision, although he had visions at times. But his walk with God was with the common duties of life. You and I can have the same experience.

What is necessary for people to walk together?

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Amos 3:3.

What is the answer to that question? No. It is a big resounding no. Two cannot walk together except they agree. That is the only right answer.

It is amazing how many people are trying to get it done. But if you and I are going to take a walk, and I want to go west and you want to go east, it is going to be hard to walk together. If you want to go north and I want to go south we cannot walk together.

So if Enoch walked with God, then Enoch and God agreed. If you and I walk with God it will be because we and God agree.

Which one of us ought to yield if we don't find ourselves in agreement? Should God yield, or should I yield? Is that a good question?

It is a very important question. It is the first question, the fundamental question, the basic question. Until we get that question settled we don't even start to

walk with God. God is on the move. He is on the march. He is looking for someone to march with Him, walk with Him. But God is not going to change His plans and walk where we want to go in order that we may have His companionship.

The plans of the universe are not to be frustrated or set aside while we carry out our petty ideas and dreams. But there are many people who would like to harness God to their cart. They would like to get their vehicle moving. They think that if they could only get God interested in going with them they could get something done. Some people pray about it. They want God to do what they want to do.

It is that season of the year when many children are writing letters to Santa Clause. It reminds me of the prayers of some people. Dear Lord, I want this and that. Give me this and that. I would like this and that. I wish you would do this and that.

Don't misunderstand me. It is all right to let God know our needs and wants and desires. But if that is all there is to our thinking in prayer, we haven't gotten far beyond the pagan principle.

The heathen go to their temples. They get down and knock their foreheads on the ground before those big, ugly, wooden or stone or silver or gold idols. Why? It is because they want some temporal advantage, some physical blessing, some financial return, something they hope can be gotten by appealing to the gods.

That is not the way to walk with God. If we are to walk with God we must be agreed. Agreed about what? Obviously agreed about where to walk.

Where is God going? If I want to walk with Him, I want to walk where He is going. Not only in heaven in the future life, but right here in this world. God has a program. He is engaged in something. Do I really want to walk with Him? That is the question. If I do, I must be agreed. I must give up my plans and accept His plans. I must give up my way and take His way.

Many people have the idea that as long as they keep out of the penitentiary and are good citizens, that means they should be accepted in heaven. But friends, there are many people who are keeping out of the penitentiary who will never keep out of hell.

The rich man Jesus told about woke up in hell and saw Abraham and Lazarus. It is not recorded that he ever served time in any state prison. No. There will be billions of people in hell who have never been in jail. To keep out of hell requires a far greater standard than keeping out of the reformatories of this world.

To state it in another way, a man can be good in this world and not be good enough for heaven. A man can be respected by his fellow citizens, be a church member, live up to all the requirements of society, and yet not be walking with God at all. The road to hell is wide, and not all of it goes through the honky-tonks and gambling dens and brothels and race tracks and salons. It all doesn't go that way. A

man can be respected, law abiding, everything the world looks up to in this life, and yet miss heaven all together.

Those who get to heaven will be like Enoch who walked with God. And there are a lot of good things in this world that may not be on God's map for you at all. If you choose to look over the map of this world and select your road and decide what you are going to do, the changes are it will not be something God has planned for you at all.

The best way and the only way to walk with God is to do what Enoch did. That is to say, Lord, I lay down my plans and agree with Your plans. I will give up my way and take Your way. Instead of asking You to walk with me, I will walk with You. That's it.

Is that possible in a practical way? We come to the question of how to walk. How do you walk anyway? Is there anyone who has walked all your life? If I were addressing a group of little goats, they could have held up their feet. They start walking the day they were born. But none of us did that. We were carried. How did we ever learn to walk? I suppose most of us did some crawling first, didn't we? But the time came when we began to walk.

What was the thing that began that walk? A first step. Did any of you take the second step first? You may wonder why I ask that question, but you will see. It is a very important question.

Some people in the Christian experience try to take the second step first. It never works. In fact, it is impossible. The only way to walk with anybody anywhere is to do what? Take a step, and take the first step.

It is equally important after you have taken the first step to do what? Take the second step. Suppose you just took the first step over and over again. Would you call that walking? No. I would just call that jumping up and down. You wouldn't cover very much ground. You would get some exercise.

One of the saddest thing I see in counseling with people is dear Christians who are trying to take the same step over and over again when God wants them to get past that first step and take the second step.

How many feet do we use to take these steps with? Two. Is that enough? Yes, if it were not, God would have given us more. Can you get along with half that number? Not very well. If you want to walk you use two feet. The way we walk is to first put one foot forward and then bring the other one up. If we keep that simple rhythm we can get over quite a bit of ground.

Oh, how important it is in the Christian experience to learn what that represents. It is very simple. It is just as simple as walking with two feet. But you would be surprised how many people who know perfectly well how to put one foot in front of the other from here to anywhere, but they don't know how to do it in the Christian experience. I hope everybody who leaves this chapel tonight will understand exactly how to walk with God. All you need is two feet, two steps taken

in order and sequence, and keep it up. First the right foot and then the left foot. You can walk with God and make progress, and you don't have to keep in the same place all the while. Thank God, you move. Just take those two steps.

What are they? Let's go to Colossians and see if we can learn a little about it:

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him" Colossians 2:6.

It is a wonderful thing to watch a little baby learning to walk. But it would not be so wonderful if we kept visiting that home for twenty years and still the baby was learning to walk. We would feel very sympathetic for those parents. We would feel sorry for the child who by this time had gotten to be six feet tall and still learning to walk.

How long have you been learning to walk with God? In the same way you received Christ, walk. In other words, you keep going the same way you get started. And if we can learn how we received Christ we will learn how we can walk.

This is emphasized in two statements:

"As it is by giving yourself to God, and believing Him, that you become His child, so you are to live in Him. The apostle says, 'As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him.'" *Steps to Christ*, page 52.

What are the two things we are to do to get started and keep going? The first thing is by giving ourselves to God, and the second thing is by believing Him.

"Do you ask, 'How am I to abide in Christ'? In the same way you received Him at first. 'As we have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him.' 'The just shall live by faith.' You gave yourself to God, to be His wholly, to serve and obey Him, and you took Christ as your Savior. You could not yourself atone for your sins or change your heart; but having given yourself to God, you believed that He for Christ's sake did all this for you. By faith you became Christ's, and by faith you are to grow up in Him, by giving and taking. You are to give all, your heart, your will, your service, give yourself to Him to obey all His requirements; and you must take all, Christ, the fullness of all blessing, to abide in your heart, to be your strength, your righteousness, your everlasting helper, to give you power to obey" *Ibid*, pages 69,70.

The first step then is giving yourself, giving all. The step of surrender. Most people understand that in coming to Jesus they must give up all. I say most people understand that is required. I don't mean most people do it. But sincere Christians do it.

I think of it as the right foot. But suppose I put my right foot out here and keep stretching. I want to go over to the piano, but all I will use is my right foot. Do you think I will make it? No, I don't think so. I have stretched just about as far as I can.

I see people like that in the Christian experience. I see them stretching, trying to surrender more in order to make progress. What they need to learn is to bring that other foot up. And until they do, they stretch themselves, sometimes beyond limit, and wear themselves out. They wonder why they don't make any progress, and wonder why they are so worn out in their Christian experience.

If there is anyone here like that, let me encourage you. You have another foot. The reason you have it is to use it. Make some progress. Don't keep thinking all the while about surrender. That is only half of it.

It is the first half. Don't try to take the second step before you have taken the first, because you can't.

The second step is to believe. That is faith. The apostle Paul says:

"(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)" 2 Corinthians 5:7.

Do you want to walk with God? You must walk by faith. The step you take is the step of faith. And Paul hastens to add that it is not by sight. So the second step you must take is by faith alone.

Some people can see that what God asks them to give up is wrong. They can see that it is wrong to use tobacco and liquor. A man who swears knows he shouldn't do it. He sees it is reasonable to give it up. But when you have given yourselves to God, and given your sins to Him, then the next step is to believe. Believe what? That He has taken those sins and put them under His blood. That He has taken the heart you gave Him and cleansed it by His Holy Spirit. He has accepted your hand, and your hand and His are linked in a sweet fellowship. All of that you are to believe and receive by faith, not by sight. That is the second step.

Have you taken the second step? Let's look at another verse:

"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith" Ephesians 3:17.

What does dwell mean? Live. Where do you live? I live at Wildwood. Where does Jesus live? You say He lives up in heaven. He would like to live with you. One translation puts this verse:

"That Christ may make His home in your hearts *through* your faith." Ephesians 3:17.

Think of Jesus living in your heart and making His home there. That is possible through faith. If you learn how to receive Him, you learn how to walk with Him.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me" Revelation 3:20.

He doesn't come like a Western Union boy with a telegram who knocks and says, Here is a message, and then runs off. He wants to stay for supper. He wants to stay on and on. He wants to eat with us, work with us, worship with us, study with us, live with us. He wants to walk with us in a moment by moment, day by day fellowship.

How does it all begin? It begins by giving Him all we have, and then taking from Him all He has. You keep on like you start.

Let's look at the picture of Jesus at the door. He is standing there knocking. What does He want? He wants to come in. When will He do it? When we open the door and invite Him in. That is the step of surrender. That is the step of turning over ourselves and inviting Him in. That is opening the door.

But we read in Ephesians that for Him to stay there and live there and dwell there must be done by faith. That is the second step. Oh, that Jesus may help us to understand how to use that second step.

When we use the first step, we say, Lord, I give up everything. But when we take the second step we say, Lord, I take everything from You.

Suppose I go down to the supply and get some of those nice dates that just came in. They are lovely and delicious. I decide I would like a dollar's worth. I put down my dollar and run home. What have I done? Well, I don't have the dates. I gave up my dollar, and I may say, You know, after giving up that dollar I think I ought to feel different.

What do I need? I need to take the dates.

We can't buy the favor and blessing of God. But He says, "I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire." If you want to know what the exchange is, we give up a sin polluted heart and we take Jesus. We give up our sins and take His righteousness. It is not exactly buying and selling, but He does use that illustration.

I say it is a wonderful bargain. Think of it, friends. To exchange our sins for His righteousness, our unworthiness for His merits. Oh, what a privilege. But watch. To merely lay down my sins is not enough. I must take His righteousness. I must take all. I do that by faith.

What is faith? It is just believing God. That is what it teaches about Abraham (Romans 4:3). He is a man of faith. He believed God. That's it. And if you and I will believe what God says, meet the conditions and accept what He says, we will walk with God just like Enoch and Abraham did.

I wonder how many years there ought to be between the **first step and the second step?** I wonder how long I should stand there with my foot extended in

surrender before I dare to bring that other food of faith up and say, Lord, I believe I took what You gave, and You gave Your righteousness in exchange.

I will tell you what will make God happy, friends. If we do it as fast as we do it with these feet of ours as we walk along these paths. But every time God puts His finger on something in our lives that we have not known about before that we need to give up to Him, we say, All right, Lord, I will take that step with You, and right away we bring the other foot up and say, Lord, I thank You that You took it. It is all yours now. And now You are giving me something beautiful and wonderful—the life of Jesus. I accept it. I know I am Yours. I give all I am and have. I take all You have and are.

Why not take the second step. Let's take it. Let's take it and say, Dear Lord, we not only put all on the altar, we take all You have. We are leaving at the sanctuary what we are and taking what You are. And what does He have to give us? Everything. My God shall supply all your need according to His riches.

That isn't just shoes, dresses, clothes, bread, beans, and potatoes. No, it is a lot more than that. It is victory over an evil temper. It is deliverance from passions and lusts and habits that have held us back in the road toward heaven. It is the power to win souls to Jesus. It is the meekness and gentleness of our Lord, His love for lost men and women. Don't we need all those things?

But most of all is that great gift of the Spirit concerning which Jesus says, If you know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him? Give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.

But may I add, not only ask Him, but stay and take it. When you take the first step, take the second step. When you put down your life, take up His life. When you extend your hand with faith which you know God is calling for, and you give your life up and lay it down at His feet, don't go home with an empty hand. One of the great reasons God asks you to empty that hand is so He can fill it. One of the reasons God wants you to empty your heart is so He can fill it. He doesn't want us to be empty, swept, and garnished. He wants us to be swept and garnished so that emptiness can be filled with His infinite fullness. Oh, that God may have it true in every one of us. He wants to do it.

"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God" Ephesians 3:17-19.

Do you think there is plenty? Why does God want you to give up those sins? That you might be filled with all the fullness of God. How is it to be done? By faith. Faith is believing God. Faith is asking God for what He promised, and then accepting it.

"And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God... Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" Mark 11:22, 24.

When you pray, believe. When you are asked, believe. Believe you receive them and you shall have them. Let's take the step of faith. And remember, just as the step of surrender must be taken over and over again, the step of faith must be taken every time.

How many times did you have to use your right foot to get here to this meeting tonight? Several times. But didn't you use your left foot every time you used your right foot? Of course you did. And every time you surrender yourself to God, morning by morning, and through the day, right away bring that left foot up and say, Lord, I believe. I have asked for help, I believe it. I have given myself to You, I believe you have accepted me.

Some timid soul says, I will have to wait a few days to see if it works for me or not.

Bless your heart, friend, how will you make any progress that way? Suppose I just stand here and wait to bring that left foot up to see whether I get over to the wall or not. Never. In other words, the man who waits to believe until the thing happens is postponing the very thing that will bring the results. God's plan is not to see it and then believe it. It is believe it and then see it. Which will you accept, God's way or your way?

Can **two** walk together accept they be agreed? Can they? Well then, will you let God run this, or will you insist that God come to your terms. Will you pray and weep and wail and cover His altar with complaints, pleading that God will so bless your soul that it will overflow with rejoicing, and then believe you are His child? Do you insist that God do it that way? Or will you, in simple faith say? Dear Lord, it is written in Your Word, if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I know, Lord, You couldn't lie. So I am taking the first step. I am laying my sins down. And I am taking the second step and believe you forgive me. I am taking that step of surrender and taking that step of faith. I am taking that step of giving everything I am, and I am taking that step of accepting all that You are. I am asking and believing. I am surrendering and exercising faith.

Oh, friends, that is the way to walk with God. That is the way Enoch did it. That is the way we get started in the Christian life. And as you have received Christ Jesus, the Lord, so walk in Him.

But if you have been using your right foot all the time and your left foot has been just dangling there, it may be a little weak. It may not move very fast. It may seem lame. You may say, I am afraid I can't do much with that foot.

But what happens to muscles that are used? They grow. Somebody says they hurt a little. Yes, they do sometimes. But what is the cure for that? Keep it up. Oh, friends, let's have faith in God.

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