

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

August 16, 2026

Heros of the Faith

“Enoch: Walking Closely with God”

Hebrews 11:5-6

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What's the name of the tallest mountain in the world? The answer may surprise you. Most people would answer “Mount Everest,” but actually National Ocean Service reported back in June of 2021 that it is Mauna Kea (MAW-nah KEE-ah), on the island of Hawaii. The inactive volcano is a modest 13,799 feet above sea level, but when measured from the seabed to its summit, it is 33,465 feet high—about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile taller than Mount Everest. As far as mountains are concerned, the current convention is that “highest” means measured from sea level to summit; “tallest” means measured from the bottom of the mountain to the top. So, while Mount Everest, at 29,029 feet is the highest mountain in the world, it is not the tallest. Measuring mountains is trickier than it looks as being the tallest then is referring to the highest point on Earth as measured from Earth's center and measuring in this way makes Mauna Kea the tallest. It's easy enough to see where the top is, but where exactly is the “bottom” of a mountain? *For the Christian, the important thing is not only what others see in our lives, but the foundation of our lives that are rooted and grounded in our often hidden, unseen relationship with God. There in the unseen depths of our lives our relationship with God is nurtured as we daily walk in close fellowship with God.* Today we meet another hero of the faith, Enoch, who through His deep, hidden, unseen faith in God, had a close, intimate, personal relationship with God that brought about great rewards in his life.

HEBREWS 11:5-6

⁵ It was by faith that Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying—“he disappeared, because God took him.” For before he was taken up, he was known as a person who pleased God. ⁶ And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

WALK CLOSELY WITH GOD IN FAITH

We first learn in *Hebrews 11* that we are to ***Walk Closely with God in Faith***. According to *Hebrews 11:6*, Enoch was one who not only believed in faith that God existed, he also sought to know God personally. *Genesis 5:21-24* says, ²¹ *When Enoch was 65 years old, he became the father of Methuselah.* ²² *After the birth of Methuselah, Enoch lived in close fellowship with God for another 300 years, and he had other sons and daughters.* ²³ *Enoch lived 365 years,* ²⁴ ***walking in close fellowship with God.*** *Then one day he disappeared, because God took him.* Enoch was the great-

great-great-great-grandson of Adam or the 7th generation from Adam, the father of Methuselah, and the great-grandfather of Noah. As Genesis says here in verse 22, when Enoch became the father of Methuselah at 65 years of age, for the next 300 years until he died, **he lived in close fellowship with God.**

My parents made sure that my brother and I were raised in the church. With my mother being German, we were raised in the Lutheran church in Tampa. We were baptized into the church and then went to church somewhat regularly. We even went to a private Lutheran school until high school where we then went to a Methodist private school. We were raised to believe that God existed, learned the stories in the Bible, learned a great deal about who Jesus is and what He came to do as the Savior, and we were taught to live according to good moral Christian values. We were raised to be good, religious boys. It wasn't really until I was a senior in high school that a spiritual lightbulb went on in me, and I understood for the first time that what God wanted from me more than anything else, was a personal relationship with me. I said yes, to not only receiving God's love and forgiveness of sins and the promise of heaven for eternity, I said yes to beginning a daily relationship with God.

God did not send Jesus into this world to get everyone to sign on to become members of a religion. God is not just some impersonal force but is a personal God who loved us so much that He sent Jesus into this world to make a way for us to have a relationship with Him. *Colossians 1:19-22* puts it this way, *"¹⁹ For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, ²⁰ and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. ²¹ This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. ²² Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault."*

When the Bible tells us that God made us in His image, that means that God made us with the means by which we can have a close, intimate, personal relationship with Him. The picture that Genesis gives us of God's relationship with Adam and Eve is that of God walking in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve in a close, intimate, personal relationship with God. God made humanity to have a close, intimate, personal relationship with Him. That is the imagery that **Genesis 5:24** gives us of Enoch's relationship with God as it says ***Enoch walked in close fellowship with God.*** Missy and I not only love to go on hikes when on vacation, but we often take walks together on a bridle trail that runs next to our house here in Killearn. Usually, at the end of the day, we will put on our walking shoes and hike anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour. It is not only a great means of exercise but also a great opportunity for us to spend quality time together, just the 2 of us without all the distractions of life. Sometimes we talk throughout the walk, catching up on all that's happening in our lives and other times we may walk without saying much of anything. There is no one else I would rather spend my time with than Missy. In addition to being my wife, she really is my best friend. That's what you do with someone you love, spend time with them and continually draw closer and get to know each other better. That's what God wants from us. God Himself said through the prophet Jeremiah in *Jeremiah 9:24*, *"But those who wish to boast should*

*boast in this alone: **that they truly know me** and understand that I am the Lord who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things. I, the Lord, have spoken!”* Jesus also said in John 17:3, *“And this is the way to have eternal life—to **know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.**”*

Now that God has taken the initiative to have a relationship with Him, we are to reciprocate. A relationship with God is a 2-way street. We have a responsibility to invest in our relationship with God. Again, God said through the prophet Jeremiah in *Jeremiah 29:13*, *“If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.”* We are to seek God to know God better each every day. James also tells us in *James 4:8*, *“Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.”* If we want a close relationship with God, then we will continually make an effort to draw closer to God. How do we continually nurture the kind of faith walk with God that Enoch had? As Methodists in the Global Methodist Church, we are a part of a rich tradition that can be traced back to the founder of Methodism, John Wesley. John Wesley taught some very practical, simple habits that enable us to draw closer to God. None of these earn a relationship with God. These just enable us to cultivate a closer relationship with God.

DAILY MEANS OF GRACE

Wesley called these daily spiritual disciplines **Daily Means of Grace**:

Search the Scriptures

Prayer

Public Worship

Fasting

Fellowship

Small Group

The first is to **Search the Scriptures** through reading and meditating on the Bible daily. Secondly, Wesley called on Methodists to pursue a closer relationship with God through both private and family **Prayer** every day. Wesley famously began his day with an hour of prayer at 4:00 or 5:00 AM, followed by five minutes of prayer during every succeeding hour. The next step to draw closer to God is through **Public Worship** or regularly attending church services and participating in the Communion. Wesley also included **Fasting**. For Wesley that meant he would not eat anything on Wednesdays and Fridays until 3:00 PM. Another means of drawing closer to God for Wesley was that of regularly spending time in **Fellowship** with other Christians. Along with fellowship, a vital part of maintaining a closer relationship with God was experienced in being a member of a **Small Group** of other Christians who also practice these disciplines together. Wesley set up small groups that consisted of a dozen or so people that he called, “classes,” and even more serious, intimate small groups of three or four people called “bands.” Wesley understood that it is overwhelmingly difficult to maintain a close relationship with God without being in community with other Christians who are helping one another be committed to these spiritual disciplines that nurture our relationship with God.

GOD REWARDS THOSE WHO WALK IN FAITH WITH GOD

What is beautiful about Enoch's faith relationship with God that God promises us in *Hebrews 11:6* we can also experience in our relationship with God is that ***God Rewards Those Who Walk in Faith with God***. John Wimber, the founder of the Vineyard Movement, said that "Faith is spelled R-I-S-K." When we believe God exists, we are taking a step of faith of risking believing that God exists even though we cannot prove that God exists with our five senses. When we daily meet with God in our relationship with God, we take a risk of faith that not only believes God exists but that He is with us, listening to us, loves us, and takes care of us.

I remember in 1976 when I was 13 years old and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers played their very first game in the NFL at Tampa Stadium, just one mile away from my house. Our family were season ticket holders for the worst team in the NFL. I was hooked for life as a fan and still am today. One of the great coaches of the Bucs was the very colorful Bruce Arians. Coach Arians was known for being a coach that would take big risks such as going for it on 4th downs instead of playing safe and punting the ball away to the other teams. He once said about his philosophy as a coach, "I live life and call plays the same way: no risk-it, no biscuit. If you don't try a great shot you won't hit one." He loved to say, "No risk-it, no biscuit." That philosophy and the fact that he was able to get Tom Brady and other star players to join the team led to the Bucs winning their second Superbowl.

The same principle can be seen in Enoch's faith-walk with God as Enoch believed God existed and trusted in God and walked so closely with God that he experienced countless rewards, the most notable of which was that Enoch bypassed death and went straight to heaven after walking with God over 300 years. That is certainly an amazing reward for being in a close relationship with God. We need to be very clear that we are not given the same promise if we too have a close relationship with God. Yet, when we take the risk to have faith in God that believes God exists, trusts God, and daily walks with God in a close relationship with God, God promises us many benefits, blessings, rewards, or biscuits of risking walking with God in faith. God promises us a relationship with Him, adoption into the family of God, not just lifetime, but a free, eternal membership in the Kingdom of God, eternal life free from all sin, friendship with God, forgiveness, God's constant presence through the Holy Spirit, redeemed, transformed, renewed lives that experience deep within love, joy, peace, hope, security, strength, and power to overcome evil in this life here and now, strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, 24/7 endless support, protection, provision, healing, help in times of trouble, the resource of prayer to be used anywhere and at any time to literally talk to the living God, teaching and understanding of God's truth and will through the Holy Spirit, God's love, grace, mercy, compassion, God's leadership and direction, correction as needed, eternal, heavenly rewards, abundant life, purpose in life, sanctification, deep satisfaction, guidance and answers to our questions, the ability to know and hear God speak to us as we draw closer to God, the blessing of serving in God's Kingdom and planting God's kingdom seed in the lives of people in this world, comfort in loss, assurance of salvation, and healing and deliverance and freedom from all our hurts, habits, and hangups. God promises all these rewards and more for all those who daily walk in close fellowship with God. It truly doesn't get any better than this!

Enoch gets a lot of attention due to the mystery surrounding his exit from this world. What is most significant about Enoch is the example he set for us as a man who loved God and walked closely with God. The closer he drew to God, the more he loved God, and the more he then wanted to please God more than anything else. God wants that kind of relationship with us. I urge us all not to just settle for religion. God is calling on all of us to walk in close fellowship with Him. Are you in a relationship with God? Are you daily walking closely in fellowship with God? If you are not in a relationship with God, the Holy Spirit is right now nudging you to say yes to God's loving, gracious invitation to join Him in an eternal relationship. The greatest decision any of us can ever make in our lives is that of whether or not we will say yes to God's invitation to be in relationship with Him.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES: (Books marked with * are available to be checked-out in the Asbury Discipleship Resource Center)

- *Be Confident: Live by Faith, Not by Sight*, Warren W. Wiersbe
- *The Pursuit of God*, A. W. Tozer
- *The Treasure Principle*, Randy Alcorn
- *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, Donald S. Whitney
- *The Class Meeting*, Kevin Watson

Icebreaker Questions

1. When you think of taking a walk with someone you enjoy being with, who comes to mind, and what makes that time together meaningful?
2. Of the spiritual practices mentioned in the sermon—Scripture, prayer, worship, fasting, fellowship, and small groups—which comes most naturally to you, and which is the most challenging?

Sermon Discussion Questions

1. Hebrews 11:5–6 says that Enoch “pleased God” and that God rewards those who sincerely seek Him. What do you think it means to sincerely seek God rather than simply believe that God exists?
2. The sermon contrasts being religious with having a personal relationship with God. What is the difference between knowing information about God and actually knowing God? How have you experienced that difference in your own faith journey?
3. Genesis describes Enoch as someone who “walked in close fellowship with God.” If your relationship with God were pictured as a walk today, what would that walk look like—close together, distracted, wandering, rushing ahead, lagging behind, or something else? Why?
4. John Wesley emphasized Scripture, prayer, worship, fasting, fellowship, and small groups as “means of grace.” Which one might God be inviting you to practice more intentionally during this season of your life? What is one practical change you could make this week?
5. The sermon says that the greatest thing about Enoch was not the mysterious way he left this world, but that he loved God, walked closely with God, and increasingly wanted to please Him. What might change in our priorities, relationships, decisions, or daily routines if pleasing God became our greatest desire?
6. What impacted you most from the sermon? How might you apply this week’s sermon to your life?
7. How might this group pray for you this week?