

ENOCH . . . who walked with God  
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(Genesis 5: 24)

They probably said he was a dreamer, for he was a man apart. It was not that he was unsociable or unapproachable, but he loved solitude. He was happy when he was alone. The frivolities of life did not attract him. His home was a place of dignity and peace, where the restful atmosphere suggested a sanctuary. There were moments when Enoch might easily have been its priest. The more hilarious of the population laughed at the old man, and said his ideas were stupid. Yet with calm assurance the saint went his way. Every day he walked in the countryside; and the more intimate of his friends knew that whenever he returned from such a walk, his face was alight with a strange emotion. His eyes reflected the glow of hidden fires. He was a man possessed. He loved walking-especially when he walked with God.

#### His Exquisite Fellowship

It would appear that God had re-discovered in Enoch that which had been lost in Adam. The Lord had walked with man in Eden, but sin had intervened and a most promising fellowship had been ruined. Now God had found a new companion. Enoch walked with God. We moderns liken progress to the growth of a child, and glibly say that a man must walk before he can run. God describes progress differently. The prophet Isaiah said. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint" (Isa. 40:31). When a man is first converted to God, the exuberance of spiritual youth will be wings upon which he will be carried to the skies. Then, as his experiences deepen, he will persistently run the race of life, and not be weary. Finally, he will walk at God's side. Excessive enthusiasm will not hasten his footsteps, nor will weariness slacken his pace, when God moves. Every day they will walk together. Enoch was one of the earliest men to attain to this degree of intimacy. He walked with God.

#### His Exceptional Faith

Walking with God means fellowship, and fellowship means conversation. The casual onlookers in the ancient world could not understand why the saint loved to steal away from the company of fellow men. Probably, had they secretly followed him, they would have questioned his sanity. He talked to an invisible companion. He told God all the secrets of his heart, and in return God revealed the plans of heaven. And slowly but surely, the old patriarch was instructed in matters beyond ordinary comprehension. His eyes became those of a seer, and from that day onward his voice rebuked the immorality of his generation. "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied . . . saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed . . . (Jude 14, 15). God not only loved to walk with him; He trusted him with a great message. The preacher spoke with authority. He firmly believed what he said; he had received the information at first hand-he had walked with God.

#### His Eternal Fame

Day after day these two walked together, and perhaps

ENOCH . . . who walked with God even the angels marvelled. It was astounding that the Maker of heaven and earth should find delight in the company of a mere man. God loved Enoch, and His love was perfectly reciprocated. It was not a cause for amazement, therefore, when God invited Enoch to the eternal palace, and the invitation was gratefully accepted. They went home together. "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" (Heb. 11:5).

Probably the men of the city searched high and low for the missing preacher, and all kinds of rumours circulated concerning his strange disappearance. Yet they never found him, for they were unable to look in the right place. He was with God. And thus did God teach that, although a flaming sword blocked the way to the tree of life (Gen. 3 : 24), eternal life could still be a reality to all who walked with the Highest.

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