

Talk with God . . . Walk with God!

ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD

“No good thing does he withhold for those whose walk is blameless.” Psalm 84:11

When people die and are buried, special words are often written on their tombstone or grave marker. These words are called an epitaph. They are usually kind words about the person who is buried there. For instance, Thomas Jefferson has inscribed on his gravestone, “Here was buried Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence of the Statute of Virginia for religious freedom.” Some people like to have a special Bible verse as their epitaph.

Perhaps the grave marker of the man we are about to meet could have read: “He really enjoyed his walks.” I said it “could have read” because there never was a tombstone for this man. That’s because he never needed one. You see, this man never died. His name was Enoch.

We read about Enoch in Genesis chapter 5:18-24. Very little is mentioned about who he was. We don’t know what work he did, or what his personality was like, but we do know one very interesting thing about Enoch: he enjoyed walking.

Enoch was born when Adam was only 622 years old. Enoch probably knew Adam for about 300 years. Enoch was the father of Methuselah, the oldest person on record. One might imagine that living among the great Bible fathers would mean that everyone believed in God, but that was not the case. Jude writes in the Bible, *“Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: ‘See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him’”* (14,15). There is no doubt that Enoch lived among some very wicked people. Maybe it wasn’t too different from our world today.

Enoch loved to walk. That is, he loved to walk with God. He loved to do what pleased the Lord. The Bible tells us that he walked with God for 365 years. After that, Enoch took one last walk, and the Bible says that he *“was no more”* (5:24). God took Enoch by the hand and walked with him right into heaven! That means that Enoch never died. He just strolled through heaven’s gates and came face-to-face with friends he hadn’t seen for years.

Why did God do that for Enoch? What kind of man was Enoch that caused God to treat him so special? Let’s see if we can find the answer in the story of Enoch. Twice it says that *“Enoch walked with God.”* The writer of the book of Hebrews also wrote *“by faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God”* (11:5). Enoch spent his whole life walking with the Lord. What a great example for us to follow. We should try to walk in Enoch’s footsteps. As God’s children, we will all want to walk the path to heaven just as Enoch did. We can do that by walking with Jesus every day. And what better time to begin than today!

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PRAY WHEN YOU BEGIN AND END THE DAY

“Morning by morning I lay my requests before you.” (Psalm 5:3)

“In the night I will remember your name, O Lord.” (Psalm 119:55)

Here’s an interesting statistic. A study was made that discovered that 80% of Smartphone users check their phones first thing in the morning. That means for every ten people, eight of them have nothing better to do than to see if someone wanted to talk with them overnight. Might this number include you too?

I have news for you, there is really someone who wants to talk with each of us when we open our eyes in the morning. But it’s not just a schoolmate or phone pal. It’s the Lord of the universe. He loves to start our days with a short chat in the morning, right when we open our eyes. What better time of day is there to speak with our heavenly Friend than before all the plans and problems of the day begin to get in our way? That’s why we read in the Bible that Jesus often did just that. Mark 1:35 says, “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.”

The writer of the Psalms put it this way, “Morning by morning I lay my requests before you.” (Psalm 5:3) But what could you say to Jesus then? How about a simple “Good morning, Jesus. Thank you for watching over me last night and for blessing me with another day to enjoy your world. Please send your angels to watch over everything I do today. Help me to behave as your child and to be a blessing to everyone who meets me. Amen.”

It’s a wonderful idea to pray right when we awaken in the morning. But it is also a great idea to pray at the end of the day just before we close our eyes in sleep. In the quiet of the nighttime, when all around us is dark, and there is nothing there to distract our thoughts, we can find comfort in spending a few moments with our Lord in prayer. David gives us an example to follow when he writes in Psalm 63:6, “On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.” Is this a plan all of you try to follow? Many small children get used to saying their bedtime prayers with mom or dad, and then when they grow to be older, other things get in their way, and prayer is often forgotten. Nighttime is a perfect time to bring your thanks to God for keeping us through the day. It’s a time to tell God about your day, about the needs you now have, about the problems you’ve faced, and about the successes you’ve enjoyed. Take a heartfelt moment to thank Jesus for rescuing you from sin and for making you his child. Ask God for special healing, friendship, or comfort for others. Give God the names of those who are especially close to you, and finally, ask the Lord to send his angels to watch you through the night and to give you peaceful rest.

Morning and at night are two great times of the day to talk with our Shepherd, our Guardian, and our Friend. Remember that the next time you get into bed and when you awaken.

