

# The Power of Influence

## Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>

**God is relational! Since we're made in his image, so are we. (Gen 1:26; 2:18)**  
**God delighted to walk and talk with Adam and Eve in Eden until Sin entered their hearts and brought separation (Gen 3:1-8; Is. 59:2), sorrow and death. (Gen. 3:22-24)**

**Almost 700 years passed before scripture records that another man (Enoch) desired to walk with God! (Gen 5:24)**

Little is known about Enoch, yet his life made such an impact on God that he simply walked right into heaven without dying. Enoch was born 622 years after God created Adam. Since Adam lived for 930 years, their lives overlapped by 308 years! Adam was still around, yet it was in the heart of a man named Enoch, that God found a companion to walk with Him. Why didn't Adam "walk with God" anymore? While God hasn't revealed everything (Deut 29:29) what God has revealed is "revealing".

**Notice what God's word has revealed about Enoch.**

### 1. He was a Faithful Follower Gen. 5:24a

#### A. *"Enoch walked with God..."* (hālāk: to follow, be conversant with)

- 1) His Name reflected his nature. Pr. 22:1 *"A good name* (shēm: memorial, character) *is rather to be chosen than great riches."*
- 2) His nature was shaped by this choice. Enoch (ḥānôk) comes from ḥānāk meaning:
  - a) To make narrow Mt. 7:13,14
  - b) To dedicate/discipline/train Mt 16:24
  - c) To cleanse. (Remember Hanukah!) (1 Jn 1:9)We can't walk with God while walking in sin. 1 Jn 1:7; 2 Cor 6:14-18

#### B. This choice changed him. Heb 11:5 *"By faith Enoch was translated ..."*

- 1) *"By faith Enoch was translated ..."* from meta (To accompany) and tithemi (to transfer or transport) (by implication) to exchange, change sides.
  - a) During the years he "walked with God", God's values were being "transferred" to Enoch.
  - b) This is still true of us today! Mt 4:19 *"Follow me, and I will make you..."*
- 2) *"before his translation ... he had this testimony, that he pleased God."* (euaresteo: to gratify entirely)
  - a) This is the purpose of our creation. Rev. 4:11 *"For thy pleasure they were created."*
  - b) Is God "gratified entirely" with our walk? See John 14:21

### 2. He was a Faithful Witness. Jude 14,15; Heb. 11:5

#### A. *"He had this testimony..."*

- 1) Testimony (martyreo) to be a witness. It comes from martys: a martyr

#### B. As a result of his "walks" with God:

- 1) His Perspective Changed.
  - a) He saw his neighbors through God's eyes.
- 2) His Passion Changed. He had to warn them! (Ez. 3:17-19; Jer 20:9)
  - a) He knew God's nature couldn't lastingly allow such sinful behavior. (Gen. 6:3-5)
- 3) God warned people through him! Jude 14,15

### 3. He was a Faithful Father. Gen. 5:22 *"Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah"*

#### A. Fatherhood Changed His Priorities.

- 1) It humbled him and drew him to God. James 4:6-8
- 2) He knew he had to prepare His Son.
  - a) He named his son Methuselah. (m<sup>ʾ</sup>tūšelah) from: māṭay: to number, extend (time) (He lived 969 years!) and šelah: missile of attack, spear, judgment. (He Died the year the flood came!)

#### B. He was so committed to God that his name become synonymous with Dedication! ḥānôk → Dedicated

Pr 22:6 *"Train up (ḥānak) a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

### Conclusion:

Because of his commitment to spend time with God, God changed his: Perspective, Passion, Priorities, and because of these, his Progeny!

- Adam walked with God. (Gen 3)
- Enoch Walked with God. (Gen 5:22)
- Noah walked with God! (Gen. 6:9)

NOAH was born 1056 years after creation (126 years after Adam's death and 69 years after Enoch's) and saw the fulfillment of Enoch's prophecies.

Within 1 generation of Adam's death: *"all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth."* Gen. 6:12

Because of Enoch's dedication to God's Perspective, Passion Priorities; God had prepared a Noah to partner with Him!

*"To get his goodnight Kiss he stood, beside my chair one night.  
And raised an eager face to me, a face with love alight.  
And as I gathered in my arms, the son God gave to me;  
I thanked the lad for being good, and hoped he'd always be.  
His little arms crept 'round my neck, and then I heard him say;  
Five simple words I can't forget, Five words that made me pray.  
They turned a mirror on my soul, on secrets no one knew.  
They startled me, I hear them yet; He said, "I'll be just like you!"*

### Application:

God is still looking for "Enochs" who will dedicate themselves to walk with him and share His Perspective, Passion, Priorities, and impact his Progeny.

*"I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."* (Ezekiel 22:30)

God's Still looking for such a man and/or woman! Micah 6:8)

*"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"*

*Will he find one in you?*

Ps. 138:1 *"Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD, that walketh in His ways."*

Pr. 20:7 *"The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him."*