

Characteristics of Faith
Belonging to and Longing for God
Hebrews 11:5,6

Belonging to God – believing God exists

A. Enoch's journey to faith in God

1. Gen 5:21,22 implies that Enoch did not walk with God until he became the father of Methusaleh (he was _____ years old)
 - a. Methusaleh was alive when Noah b_____ the ark.
 - b. Methusaleh may have been part of the w_____ world that was wiped out by the flood.
2. What caused Enoch to no longer be worldly?
 - a. Aside from Adam, every person named in the generations preceding Enoch outlived Enoch (all the way to his great, great, great grandad who was S_____). Adam died when Enoch was _____ years old.
 - b. There is no indication that God was actively revealing Himself and so Enoch was dependent on the s_____ that were passed down from Adam, Seth, and others.
 - 1) He finally listened and b_____ that God exists to the point of trust.
 - 2) He no longer b_____ to the world but to God.

B. There are great periods of time when God does not actively reveal Himself.

1. 1 Sam 3:1 states that the word of the Lord was r_____
2. Judges 6:13 records Gideon stating that m_____ were unheard of and there was no indication that the Lord was with the people of Israel.
3. Today we live in a period of relative s_____, where God is not actively revealing Himself.
 - a. This does not mean that God is in_____. He is always working (Jn 5:17; Rom 8:28; Phil 2:13)
 - b. It just means that it is not apparent to the masses.

C. Faith

1. Starts with the s_____ of the activity of God.
 - a. We need to k_____ the stories (Creation, fall, flood, of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, the judges, kings, and prophets).
 - b. We need to b_____ the stories to the point that we latch on to God.
2. Takes a r_____ leap (it is the evidence of the unseen – Heb 11:1)

- a. The vastness of the universe is evidence of an unseen Creator.
- b. The intricacies we see within living organisms through a microscope are so small and so interdependent that it points to a designer. (Evolution teaches that complexities evolved one at a time over long periods of time – the evidence shows otherwise)
- c. The stories in the Bible are not contradictions but reports of God's activity (science draws conclusions and has to constantly adjust their conclusions as new evidence arises).

Longing for God – walking with God

A. Enoch's journey with God.

1. Before Enoch left this earth, he obtained the witness that he was pleasing to God (Heb 11:5)
2. Enoch was walking with God (Gen 5:22)
 - a. This required him to believe the stories and accept them to his life.
 - b. His walk with God was obviously evident
 - 1) When he went missing, people looked for him but he was not being found (Heb 11:5 – uses a tense that shows continuous searching)
 - 2) Jude 1:14 – the brother of Jesus reports that that Enoch prophesied against wickedness.
3. God took Enoch up (Heb 11:1) and bypassed death.

B. What does walking with God look like for us? – Heb 11:6

1. Requires perfect faith in God - it is impossible to do this without faith.
2. Requires us to actively seek God - God rewards those who do this.
 - a. Ps 63:1 – defines seeking God as thirsting for Him like a person would yearn for water in the desert.
 - b. Deut 4:29 – instructs us that we need to do this with all our heart and soul.
 - c. 1Chr 28:9 – is a promise to Solomon that if he would seek God with his whole heart and a willing mind, he would find Him.
3. The bottom line is that we long for God to fill us with His presence and activity and set our hearts and minds on that. If we do so, it will happen.

Conclusion: - Having this characteristic of faith is a continual battle

1. Will you fill your life with this world, or will you fill your world with your faith. – the world n_____ your faith.
2. Demonstrate a faith that shows that you belong to God and long for Him.
3. Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” – Don’t make Jesus part of your life. Make Him your LIFE.