

Pleasing God

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.

– Hebrews 11:5 –

We do not know very much about the man, Enoch. The Bible has but a few references to him. Of the things we do know, this is perhaps the most remarkable – that he pleased God.

While it is true that most religions aim at this lofty and noble objective – to please Deity – they all nonetheless fall hopelessly short of ever meeting it because of their ignorance of who God is. So, for the Bible believer who has actually contemplated the nature of the Living, Eternal God, this is an astounding statement – one that deserves our thoughtful pause and meditation. There is a substantive way that mortal man can please the Holy, Almighty Creator? And further, God has recorded for us how to do so as well as etched evidence of men and women who have actually held such a testimony in the pages of His Word? And yet further, how do we obtain such an epitaph as Enoch upon our lives – that we pleased God?

The next verse provides us the open secret. Without faith, it is impossible to please Him (Heb. 11:6). It is faith foundationally, faith exclusively, faith comprehensively that pleases God. This type of faith is described further, “For he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.” So, this is more than mere mental assent. That type of faith is elementary. The devils believe in God, and tremble. But the faith that pleases Him is an all-encompassing belief that submits mind, body, and soul to His authority, dictate, and care.

So much spiritual instruction can be gleaned by the careful observation of little ones in a right relationship with a loving father. They trust him implicitly. They are safe when they are in his arms. They know both the love of his heart and the discipline of his hand. They desire unbroken time with him. They delight in his smile and are brought to tears by his frowning displeasure. They feel free to approach him and ask him hard questions. If they don’t necessarily understand his answer or explanation, they nonetheless know it to be true because daddy said so. His word is enough. His promises are good. They love him because they know he loves them. And that prompts them to live their little lives in such a way as to make their daddy proud.

It is no wonder that Jesus used a little child as the object lesson for his disciples in this most important matter of the nature of heaven-aligned faith. This is the faith that Hebrews 11 and the entire Bible is calling us to develop and exercise. Yes, it is childlike trust that grasps the heart of Jehovah and delights His eternal nature. It is this type of faith alone that pleases Him.

We can please God today by doing nothing more than trusting our Abba. Are we prepared to do so? — D. Murcek