

Hebrews 11:5–6

In Hebrews 11, the author presents OT believers as witnesses.

Having received divine testimony, the OT saints participated in, and point to, those unseen, hoped for realities which have been brought to fulfillment by Christ.

The author of Hebrews characterizes some key aspects of the faith of the OT witnesses (**Heb 11:1**) in connection with which God testified of the invisible objects of hope to the saints of old (**Heb 11:2**), who responded with persevering faith and became “a cloud of witnesses” to believers in the New Covenant era (**Heb 12:1**).

Summary

In Hebrews 11:5-6, the author of Hebrews states it was by faith that Enoch “was taken up so that he should not see death” and once again highlights divine testimony as the basis of Enoch’s faith.

1. Translated Witness vv. 5a

There are two things to focus on in **Heb 11:5–6**. First, following his theme regarding faith in this chapter, the author of Hebrews asserts that it was by faith that Enoch was “taken away/up” and “not found” “so that he would not see death”.

Secondly, the author once again underlines divine testimony as foundational to Enoch’s faith, (**Heb 11:5b**) so that Enoch could join the “cloud of witnesses” for the Christian’s persevering faith.

Vv. 5 and 6 are inseparably linked together in a demonstration that Enoch did indeed live by that faith which is required for righteousness and life (**Heb 10:38; Hab 2:4**).

The focus at the beginning of v. 5 is upon God’s translation of Enoch as the eventual outcome of his faith which has in view the Christian’s own hope to escape death through our great High Priest (**Heb 2:14**). Enoch had the same faith as Christians today and is a witness to the reality of faith’s object; Christ.

2. Saving Faith vv. 5b-6

Heb 11:5b-6 shows how the biblical witness implies that Enoch had saving faith. Enoch received testimony that he pleased God, and since this is impossible apart from faith, Enoch must have exercised faith, and so his translation can be said to have been “by faith.”

The content of Enoch’s faith was rooted in the Lord’s promise of salvation (**Gen 3:15**). This was sufficient until the full revelation of the incarnate Son, so that Enoch is verified to be one of those who draws near to God in faith, and, as a result Enoch himself received the reward for which he sought: entrance into God’s very presence to which we are all invited in the “new and living way” created by Christ Jesus (**Heb 10:19–25, 35; cf. Ps 73:25**).

The author clarifies the content of this embryonic faith in **vs. 6**, which is not a comprehensive statement of the object of saving faith but rather a statement tailored to show that Enoch sought out God and was brought into His presence by faith.

3. Seeking and Finding God vs. 6

When we speak of God giving rewards, some believers become very concerned because they think this is to contradict the clear biblical teaching of salvation by grace alone. This is not so. **Heb 11:6** simply asserts that God is the One who determines blessing versus condemnation.

“To have faith, we must realize and accept that we have to deal with this God, that His judgment about us is the vital one, and that we had better seek Him; that is, that we had better gain His favor ... Faith must turn to God as the One who saves; it must come to him seeking reward, seeking favor, seeking his grace.”

The alternative is to ignore God. This is what unbelief is all about.

Why do we have to deal with this God?

First, God tells us that he is a holy judge who will surely punish every guilty sinner (**Rev 20:12; Rom 3:23; 6:23**).

For this reason, we had better seek God, to find out how we might gain his favor. Secondly, there is a life after this one, with a God to be known and enjoyed forever. The record of Enoch tells us of a life after death, and of God’s ability to reward his own with everlasting life. In Enoch, we see the power of Christ’s resurrection life; the new life we too may enter by faith in Christ.

What does it mean to seek God?

For sinners, it means seeking God’s favor and forgiveness, which he freely gives in Jesus Christ. It also means, as Enoch shows, to walk with God; to please God.

What will you find if you do seek after God? You will find life; eternal life.

That means a life that goes beyond the grave, a life in heaven.

If you seek God, can you be sure to find Him?

Yes; God “rewards those who seek him” BUT you do not do it on your own.

John 6:44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

This means that if you seek God, He has in fact been seeking you, and therefore you will find him.

Those who seek God, He rewards with Himself, and those who walk with Him in this life, He brings to Himself in the life to come, conquering the grave, for a fellowship of joy that will last forever.