**A Prayer Workshop: *Morning Edition***

Discovering and Applying Biblical Prayer Principles from Hebrews 11

*Session Three: Walking with God*

*Prayer as Practicing God’s Presence*

Hebrews 11:5, 6

**Hebrews 11:5, 6** “By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

 Our prayers fail when our faith falters almost before it begins, that is, when we don’t truly believe at all. What is called “faith” today often is either a caricature of our own greed (“Name it and claim it” folly), in which we try to manipulate God, or else a vague acknowledgment of His existence.

 But these verses are like a magnifying glass to sunbeams, serving to focus all of that general brightness to one white-hot burning point that can both warm us and destroy doubt and opposition, freeing us to pray in confidence.

**1. Faith is the channel through which God impacts our unique circumstances.**

 Enoch’s case is unique, but the point is that it happened “by faith.” Enoch believed a promise, and his life was changed. Each life is different, and God stands ready to intercede for ANYONE who trusts Him in his/her own situation.

 Scriptures: 2 Chronicles 16:7-9; John 4:19-26

 Prayer prompts: Father, we believe; help our unbelief!

 Father, help us recall your past faithfulness in our now.

**2. Faith embraces the God of the Bible revealed in Jesus.**

 Our author does not mean just any god, but rather THIS God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

 Scriptures: Isaiah 41:21-29; 44:9-20

 Prayer prompts: Father, help us seek your approval, and yours alone.

 Father, help us to love your revealed plan of redemption.

**3. Faith embraces God’s love towards His people who believe Him.**

 Believing in God in some general way is not what is meant. Rather, we are to believe that He hears, cares, answers, responds, in essence, loves, those who come to Him and thereby show they are His. God’s reward to us is Himself.

 Scriptures: Psalm 73; 1 John 4:14-19

 Prayer prompts: Father, grant us the joy of pleasing you by our faith.

 Father, help us glorify you by being satisfied in You.

 *Let’s pray. . . A Model Prayer to be Fully Satisfied in God\* Psalm 131 (ESV)*

**A Song of Ascents. Of David.**

O Lord, my heart is not lifted up;

my eyes are not raised too high;

I do not occupy myself with things

too great and too marvelous for me.

But I have calmed and quieted my soul,

like a weaned child with its mother;

like a weaned child is my soul

within me.

O Israel, hope in the Lord

from this time forth and forevermore.

 \*The image of a weaned child is particularly moving, for although the weaning process is traumatic and emotionally painful, it is also the path to maturity. Like all true prayer, it begins with humility, ends in hope. In between, it consciously and dependently pleads the Lord’s grace and wisdom. We can pray like this when we believe in God’s love.