

## **Chapter 34: My Heart-to-Heart With God**

### **Life Application Verses:**

**Genesis 5: 24 (NIV):** Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

In our personal relationship with God, and in our acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, how often do we have a Heart-to-Heart with God? In other words, are you willing to open up about your life as God sees it? I am about to do just that in the Hope and Prayer that someone who might read this 'Open Confession' will be able to use it to do the very same thing. This is not an easy task, because as I write this, I am in the safety and security of my study in my home at 3:42a.m., where I can openly Pray and Seek God. The question we have to ask ourselves is: How honest am I before God? If God were to compare me to Enoch, would He "take me away?" As I begin this heart-to-heart with the Creator of Everything, I am humbled to be in His presence and give Glory to Him for Jesus on the Cross. Without that Truth of Salvation, I could stop right here and life would be a rote exercise in futility...

Lord, I am a sinner. I know it. I confess it. And, I know in my Heart, where only I can see who I am, that I am a sinner. I have lived my life at times as if I am better at solving my problems than You are, and when I think about what I am doing, I realize that I am but dust on this Earth apart from You. Oh God, how I want to walk faithfully as Enoch did, and be no more when my time is at hand. I want to live that kind of life for You, as a Witness for Christ to every lost person who needs You, and not fear the day of my death. I want to be the husband that my wife would be proud of, not because of what I do in this world which will pass away, but because I have loved her as You have taught me to Love. I want my son and daughter to know that their father loved them, cared for them, and never gave up on them, no matter what we went through in the years of their growing from child into adult. I hope and Pray that I spoke the Name of Jesus to them often enough so that they will remember You as the Father of Christ Jesus and know that in Him, the Gift of Salvation is Given.

I want to be the son that my mother and father will know loved them and honor them for all they have done. I need to be a better brother to my two younger brothers because it is my responsibility to do that, as I know in my heart that You would not expect any less of me. I

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Ordinary Christians Living Ordinary [Extraordinary] Lives

want to be a grandfather to my precious little Kota Bear by being here for her as You give me Life to live. Yet, God, I struggle. I struggle to maintain my Prayer life, study Your word Faithfully, and be a witness as I know that You require. There are times when I find myself at odds with another day of work, bills, and illness. I get a chest cold and I am miserable or something happens at work and my reaction is to fuss about it rather than give it to You. My life seems out of control at times, but underneath all of this worry, I know You have not moved away from me, but it is I who have moved away from You. How do I live Faithfully like Enoch? I am reaching down to the very depths of my Soul in who I am in this world where no one but You can see, asking You this question. How can I live like that? How can I be Faithful like Enoch?

How can I stop being in a frame of mind where I feel as if I am in a cycle of going through what I went through before? I get close to You, I understand what Jesus did for me, I truly and so sincerely Believe in You and in the Cross, and the Gift of Christ; I do accept it, I believe it God...yet I still struggle. What is wrong with me? I call out to You to give me assurance that I am doing Your will, that my Salvation is secure, and I am not simply saying what I think sounds good, but what is Truth. The type of Truth that is within my Soul, the Soul that You gave me. I want to be like Enoch, but how do I do that? I want to cry for my heart is so heavy right now as I think about my life and how I have lived at times. I have no excuse, nor would I even attempt to offer one. I desire more than even my life at this very moment to know the Steps You have for me—where do I go, what do I say, and how do I live without conditions placed on You? I feel like Enoch is so far removed from me that I will never measure up, no matter what I do. Is this how I should feel about my Christian walk? Am I beyond hope? I ask You God to open my ears so that I can Hear what You would say to me. I make no demands of You, Almighty God, I am in need of Mercy as I fall down and getting up is more difficult every day. On my desk is Your Word. I am looking at its cover and thinking about whether I have studied it enough to show myself approved, a workman that needs not to be ashamed if You were to quiz me on its content.

I feel like I am so inadequate that I can't measure up to even the most minimal standard You expect me to reach. Why? I know that my attitude is not right, that I have not been Faithful to Your Word, as I have complained and worried and struggled with Life. I am so tired of not

being Faithful in the little things, yet I seem to be in a condition of not being able to get out from under the strain of knowing this and not being able to correct it. Oh that my heart was right all the time. I'm not asking for perfection, God, I just need to be Faithful. I remember that small voice not long ago in which I believe with all my heart, You said to me, "Be Faithful In All Things." I know I heard those words, yet I am struggling Lord God. I need Your help. I can't dig my way out of this because I am the problem. I know that without You, I have no hope of living a life as I am writing about in this book. I don't know how I know that You are who You say, apart from you. But I believe it, not because it convinces me when I tell myself this, but because I know it in my Soul as I KNOW it. I have never seen You, nor have I literally stood beside Jesus in this world. Yet, I believe that He did give Himself for me, that He remained on that Cross and looked out into 2014 and saw me sitting here at this desk typing these words with a heavy heart. If Jesus is not The Son of God, and there is no God of All Things, then I am beyond hopeless. But, God of All Creation, I do not believe for even one breath that You are not Who You say. I believe that You made this world, the Heavens, the very air I breathe. I don't just believe it, I KNOW it! Yet, I still struggle every day with anger, rebellion, doubt, and hope for the future. I fear loss and sickness in my family, yet how can this be?

When I read the words about Enoch, it says he walked Faithfully with You. I feel like I have not measured up to even one day of the Faithfulness that Enoch lived, even though I desire to do this more than anything I can think of at this very moment. I want to be like Enoch and live Faithfully, God, because when I stand before Your Throne of Grace and Mercy, I want to have been a Good and Faithful Servant while I am here. I feel like my life is a cycle of ups and downs; the ups when I am close to You as I consider my Lord and Savior Christ Jesus, and the downs when I fall short or stray from the Path that leads me forward. I long to Walk the Path You have set before me, but I fall off the path and end up in a place where I become angry or lose my Fellowship with You. I just feel like I am never going to measure up if I cannot be Faithful to walk the path I have been given—every day without fail.

I need Your forgiveness, and God, I need Your Hand of Mercy and Grace to learn once-and-for-all how to live every day for You. Every day to live for Jesus because the very least I must do is live for Jesus in Honor of His Sacrifice on the Cross for Me. You opened my eyes to

what that substitution meant recently and I never want to lose that understanding, because when you opened my eyes to that, my life took on a new urgency to Live for Jesus. And, now, I am struggling again with my Prayer life, Bible Study, and Fellowship. I don't want to dishonor You or Jesus by being a 'part-time' servant, but a servant that is in tune with Your will for me every waking moment that You grant me in allowing me to Honor and Serve You and Christ for what You and He did for me at Golgotha.

I know that a perfect life is not reality or what I am looking for, but a Life that is Honorable to You and one that is consistent. When I think about the number of times I have missed an opportunity to witness or Pray or remain Faithful in the little things, I am reminded that I AM a sinner Saved by Grace. Please help me to remember this, from the time I open my eyes in the morning to the very last thought that I have before my eyes close for sleep. Without Salvation in Christ, my life is truly hopeless, yet I still struggle with my remembrance to do what is right all the time. Help me again, God, to Be Faithful In All Things—to follow the teachings of Jesus, who must be Lord of my Life or my life is most miserable.

It's now 4:45a.m., and my eyes are heavy as is my heart. I am getting sleepy. Yet, God, I bring these concerns to You because I cannot solve them, nor can I resolve them in my mind. I need You to help me and I have no other that I seek for a solution. I want no other God, I seek no other God, and I recognize Your Sovereignty as Giver of Life in the body in which I exist. Oh that I might walk faithfully with You as Enoch, not to make myself out to be better than others, but to be Faithful for the sake of simply being Faithful before You: that I might be Faithful to Jesus as my Lord, because I desire this above all else. Without Jesus, what do I have? If His Name is the Name by which we must be Saved, I call on His name! My desire is to live Faithfully whether in the good times or the bad times. I have failed You, and I ask Your Forgiveness.

God, I am opening my heart to You like I have never done before. I cannot hide my disobedience nor can I hide what I feel. I am a husband, father, son, employee, grandfather...yet, these things I gladly give to You. Take them all, guide me for the Journey from now to the end, whether that is a single day or decades from now, to be Faithful to You and Faithful to my Lord Jesus. No more games, no more hiding, no more looking okay on the outside, but on the inside, there is turmoil. I know I need to Pray more, study Your Word More,

have more compassion, and so much more. Allow me see a glimpse of what Enoch was to You so that I might live my life like that. Remind me every single day, please, to study the Words of Jesus, because He has told me that if I listen to His words, I will know the Father because He came here to testify of You.

I bring these words, my heart, my attitude, my all...to Your Throne of Grace and Mercy for renewal. I want my life to count for You. I want others around me to see that Jesus is my Lord and Savior, not to boast, but to point them to Jesus so that they may find Salvation and Eternal Life. These are not just words I am typing, God, these are the very thoughts and intents of my heart. I am holding nothing back. I have nothing to hold back from You. Search my heart and make me always aware of the Path You have chosen for me.

My purpose in writing this was to speak to you, the reader, on a personal level. It's to say to you that as Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good Christians, we have no assumption of Nirvana while we are here on Earth. Yet, we have a Hope that is unparalleled in all of History. I fall down in service to God, but we cannot give up. When I was younger, the football coach would say to me (since I was some 75 pounds lighter than the linemen), "Ken, it ain't how many times they knock you down I want to see, but how many times you get up." God says to me, "Ken, it ain't how many times you fail, it's how many times you seek forgiveness and restoration of Fellowship." We all struggle with our Christian lives, that's not a secret, folks! What I am Prayerfully doing in this chapter of the book is asking you to simply stop what you are doing, open up to God in a Heart-to-Heart and just let it out! Tell Him where you hurt, what you feel, how an unanswered Prayer is impacting you, and let the flood gates stand wide open before His Throne of Grace, Mercy, and Love. Whatever your struggles might be, don't hold back. Let God have it, Boldly and Humbly at the same time, from the very essence of who you are in this life on Earth.

As I am looking at this computer screen typing, I believe this: God has always been and will always be, even if I don't have the capacity to comprehend His Origin—because that does not add one iota to my Love for what He did in Christ on the Cross. But, I am a human being just like you are. I have headaches, my eyes are not 20-20 anymore, I run up a flight of stairs and

immediately dial 911 for oxygen. In the following Life Application Verse, substitute your name for Enoch. But, first, can you imagine the Glory of God before Enoch as ‘God took him?’ Listen to the verse again—DON’T JUST READ IT—HEAR IT! FEEL IT IN YOUR SOUL!

**ENOCH WALKED FAITHFULLY WITH GOD; THEN HE WAS NO MORE, BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM AWAY.**

KEN WALKED FAITHFULLY WITH GOD; THEN HE WAS NO MORE, BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM AWAY.

STEVE WALKED FAITHFULLY WITH GOD; THEN HE WAS NO MORE, BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM AWAY.

MARY WALKED FAITHFULLY WITH GOD; THEN SHE WAS NO MORE, BECAUSE GOD TOOK HER AWAY.

LATONYA WALKED FAITHFULLY WITH GOD; THEN SHE WAS NO MORE, BECAUSE GOD TOOK HER AWAY.

**YOU WALKED FAITHFULLY WITH GOD; THEN YOU WERE NO MORE, BECAUSE GOD TOOK YOU AWAY.**

**A Question of Curiosity:**

There is no perfect life on Earth, less the Life of Jesus Christ. We may not be as Faithful as Enoch, but in Christ Jesus, God will take us away and we will be no more. Our Eternal Home is ready for those of us who are Born Again, even in the midst of failures. *Our responsibility is to strive without ceasing to walk Faithfully with God every day*, so that when this life is over, we will be no more, because God took us away—to our Eternal Home. And you say...

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**“My legacy doesn't matter. It isn't important that I be remembered. It's important that when I stand before the Lord, he says, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.' I want to finish strong.” ~ Dr. James Dobson ~**

**“I die the king's faithful servant, but God's first.” ~ Harriet Tubman ~**

**Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. 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. ~ Hebrews 11: 1-40 ~ [Full text: Faith in Action]**

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