

# A Godly Father in an Ungodly World



Elder Charles Moore

It is an extremely hot day. The city bus is crowded. The people are tired and miserable. Suddenly, a young man begins cursing. It's one cuss word after another. The bus driver looks in his mirror and can tell the people are ashamed for him. When the young man got off the bus, the driver said, "Sir, you've left something." "What?" he sneered. "A bad impression", said the driver.

Fathers, what are you leaving behind? Your influence never dies. Good or bad, right or wrong, it never dies. Are you a godly influence on your family or ungodly? I believe by studying the life of Enoch we can see how to improve and be a Godly father and a Godly influence. You see, it's simple. How to be a Godly father in an ungodly world is to simply "walk with God".

Enoch walked with God.
Genesis 5:21 Enoch lived sixty
-five years, and became the
father of Methuselah. 22
Then Enoch walked with God
three hundred years after he
became the father of
Methuselah, and he had other
sons and daughters. 23 So all
the days of Enoch were three
hundred and sixty-five years.

24 Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

Enoch lived in an ungodly world. It was a pleasure-oriented, pleasure-seeking, self-gratifying generation with no thought of coming judgment. Sounds like 2013 A.D. Fathers, we live in an ungodly world, but we can walk with God and be a Godly father. What does it mean to walk with God?

Walking with God means going in God's direction. Now you've got to realize, that God's direction is up. and man's is down. Enoch was born into sin as we all are. But something happened, that changed his life that caused him to repent and go in God's direction. Did you catch it? Genesis 5: 22 Then Enoch walked with God three hundred years after he became the father of Methuselah, and he had other sons and daughters. After the birth of his first son, he turned his life over to God and began to go in God's direction. When that baby was born it changed his life forever. Sometimes God puts a baby in a family

just for that purpose. A baby can be the turning point in a person's walk with God. For the next 300 years

Enoch walks in God's direction. Fathers, are you running with the ungodly crowd? I beg you to turn and go in God's direction.

Walking with God means to share His companionship. "Walk" is the Biblical expression for fellowship and obedience to the Lord. Walking with God means unbroken communion and fellowship with God. Enoch was a walker and talker with God. You see, a Godly father is a man of prayer. He is a man on his knees. In order to be a Godly father in an ungodly world, not only talk with God but listen. Remember, too, prayer is a two way street and God speaks most often through the Bible. Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Fathers, do your children see you reading the Bible? Do they see you pray? Some say 'I'm too busy for fellowship with God'. Enoch was busy too. He had a family to take care of. Yet he was able to keep up his walk with God. Listen, the closer you walk with God, the less room for anything to

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come in between you and Him.

Walking with God means to walk by faith. Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God. Why? Because he had walked by faith 6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. What does walking by faith mean? Basically it is confidence that someone or something is reliable. And walking by faith means you walk forward in God's direction with total confidence in Him. You don't have to see around the bends in the road, because He does. So we walk by faith, not by sight, even though the door ahead may appear closed.

How do you do that? Well we have a guide, a compass, The Holy Spirit. I walk by faith into Wal-Mart almost every day, I have confidence those doors will open. Just as the spirit of shopping leads me towards those closed doors at Wal-Mart, the Holy Spirit leads us towards closed doors in our life. Don't fret. You don't have to doubt the Holy Spirit so walk in God's direction and continue walking in His direction by faith and you will be a Godly dad.

Are you walking with God? The best way to describe it is like the little girl who came home from Sabbath School and told this story of Genesis 5. "It seems that every day God would come by Enoch's house and say 'Enoch would you like to walk with Me?' And Enoch would come out of the house, go down to the gate and down the road with God. He got to the place in his life, he enjoyed it so much and he'd wait at the gate everyday. And he and God would go for a walk. Then one day, God came by and said, 'Enoch, lets take a long walk. I have much to tell you.' So they were walking and walking and finally Enoch said, 'My, it's getting late in the afternoon. I'd better get back home!' And God said, 'Enoch, you're closer to My home than you are to your home; so you come home with Me.' So Enoch went home with God."

Wouldn't it be nice, as we near the end of our own walk with God, to find that we are closer to His home than ours? Fathers, let's go for a walk with God!

### Cyberspace News Geneva Begeman

I am trying to catch up with May this month. I am starting to feel somewhat

better so Dale and I both send you our best. Please forgive the gaps in my news. I have received many many calls, cards, letters and flowers. Thank you all for your thoughtfulness. Please continue to keep us in prayer as I still have a long journey to travel yet. Each day brings a new road. I am thankful about the new things I learn. The doctors and nurses are wonderful. Our family has been wonderful about dividing up work and spending time with us. Everyone always wondered why we have such a big family. I think we know why now. The best part is seeing them planning things together.

We celebrated our 59th wedding anniversary today, June 6. (Yes, I am late getting the news out.)

I have a wonderful article written by Roy and Bennie Gee about their trip to England with pictures and when I am up to doing more computer work I will try to include some of these news notes in the days ahead. I am unable to locate everything on the computer so the pain pills do some strange things to my memory. Until I locate where I put my brain you will have to do with bits and pieces.

Many things have happened while I have been ill. Our condolences go out to the Nate Valentine family. He was a member of our church for many years and will be greatly missed. He told me many times about joining our fellowship the same day Dick and Jean Lane and Ila and Estel Baker accepted the right hand of fellowship.

Please accept these brief greetings and love for this coming summer month. I am pleased to be able to send you this and I will be back full-time soon. My next three-day treatment will be June 19-21.

Thanks, Diane, for filling in for me!



## Michigan Report

Tim Begeman

The month of May was "National Stroke Awareness Month". According to the Centers for Disease and Prevention here are some fun facts about a stroke: Stroke kills almost

130,000 Americans each year - that's 1 in every 19 deaths; on average, one American dies from a stroke every 4 minutes; stroke is a leading cause of serious long-term disability; in 2009, 34% of people hospitalized for stroke were under the age of 65; in the first minute of a stroke, your brain loses an estimated 1.9 million cells- what you'd lose in three weeks of normal aging, but the loss continues every minute the stroke is left untreated; if a stroke runs its usual 10-hour course, it can kill 1.2 billion nerve cells - what a normal brain loses over the course of 36 years.

The FAST test is an easy way to recognize and remember the signs of stroke. Using the FAST test involves asking these simple questions:

Face - Check their face. Has their mouth drooped?

Arms - Can they lift both arms?

Speech - Is their speech slurred? Do they understand you?

Time - Time is critical. If you see any of these signs, call 911 right away.

Why have I droned on and on about strokes? It's not because I just had my first aid certification renewed and it's not because I like fun facts, it's because our own Elder Moore just experienced his second stroke in the early morning on the  $19^{th}$  of May. The strokes that he experienced were minor in nature and he has recovered for the most part, so keep him in your continued prayers that these would be his last.

Barbara Willis from the "Detroit Rescue Mission" was the guest speaker at this year's annual "Ladies Tea". I had a firsthand report that a good time was had by all. She spoke about how God's providential plan working in her life brought about wisdom and much earned encouragement. This Ladies Tea was bolstered with a backdrop of exquisitely and superlatively decorated place settings.

We had our bi-monthly Magnum Nursing Home visit this month. It was our normal mini-worship service for the Magnum residents that included some much enjoyed hymn singing and intercessory prayer. I finished it off with a short talk about the divine origin of the Bible and how you must read it with a Christocentric context.

My mother, Geneva, had her first Chemo treatment and she seems to be tolerating it with little to no side effects. Her severe back pain is starting to slightly wane. She says her pain is down to excruciating. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Nate Valentine, a much beloved and lifelong fourth pew piano side occupant passed away on the 29<sup>th</sup> of this month. He died from a short bout with lung cancer that had spread to his brain. He served a few terms as our church president and was the go-to guy for our closing benediction during our normal worship service. Nate was a history buff and loved that he was from Kentucky. Please keep Joel in your prayers as he adjusts and mourns the loss of his father.

"The greatest barrier to success is the fear of failure."

Sven Goran Eriksson

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#### IT'S GOOD TO BE A MAN!

YOUR LAST NAME STAYS PUT.

THE GARAGE IS ALL YOURS.

CHOCOLATE IS JUST ANOTHER SNACK.

YOU CAN WEAR A WHITE T-SHIRT TO A WATER PARK.

CAR MECHANICS TELL YOU THE TRUTH.

YOU NEVER HAVE TO DRIVE TO ANOTHER GAS STATION

BECAUSE THIS ONE'S TOO "YUCKY."

WRINKLES ADD CHARACTER.

ONE MOOD, ALL THE TIME.

PHONE CONVERSATIONS ARE OVER IN 30 SECONDS FLAT.

A FIVE-DAY VACATION REQUIRES ONLY ONE SUITCASE.

DRY CLEANERS AND HAIR STYLISTS DON'T ROB YOU BLIND.

YOU CAN LEAVE THE MOTEL BED UNMADE.

YOU CAN KILL YOUR OWN FOOD.

IF SOMEONE FORGETS TO INVITE YOU TO SOMETHING,

HE OR SHE CAN STILL BE YOUR FRIEND.

YOU UNDERWEAR IS \$8.95 FOR A THREE-PACK.

YOU CAN QUIETLY ENJOY A CAR RIDE FROM THE PAS-

SENGER SEAT.

THREE PAIRS OF SHOES ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO CLEAN YOUR HOUSE IF THE MAID IS

COMING.

YOU DON'T MOOCH OFF OTHER'S DESSERTS; YOU ORDER

YOUR OWN.

HAPPY FATHERS DAY!