

**The Pilgrimage of Faith (Hebrews 11:4-19)**  
**Living by Faith pt. 2**  
Pastor Tim Peck

**THE BIG IDEA**

Faith is a lifelong pilgrimage that anticipates the fulfillment of God's promises and brings God delight.

**OPENING**

- Who were some of your role models growing up? How have they impacted you today?
- Describe your favorite trip. What made it so special?

**DIGGING DEEPER**

- In Hebrews 11:4-19, the author gives five examples of people who lived by faith from the book of Genesis: Abel (Genesis 4:1-10), Enoch (5:22-24), Noah (6:12-22), Abraham (12:1-3; 22:1-12), and Sarah (18:9-15). What stands out to you about each of these five people?
- Read Genesis 5:22-24. According to Pastor Tim, thousands of years later anonymous Jewish authors wrote fictional accounts about Enoch's life. One of these fictional accounts, *The Book of Enoch*, is alluded to in the New Testament book of Jude (1:14-15). This should not be understood as implying that *The Book of Enoch* is inspired by God. In Acts 17:27, the Bible quotes two Greek philosophers, but this does not mean the writings of these philosophers are inspired.<sup>1</sup> *The Book of Enoch* contains teachings that contradict the New Testament, such as the idea that Enoch was the "Son of Man" in Daniel 7:9-13 (it was Jesus not Enoch), and the idea that the future resurrection will not be spiritual and not literal.<sup>2</sup> *The Book of Enoch* also promotes ancient pagan astrology.<sup>3</sup> Why do you think these later authors were so tempted to speculate about Enoch's life?

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<sup>1</sup>These philosophers are Epimenides and Aratus. Both are quoted by the apostle Paul in his speech to the philosophers of Athens recorded in Acts 17:27.

<sup>2</sup>G. E. Ladd, *I Believe in the Resurrection of Jesus* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975), pp. 56-57.

<sup>3</sup>See J. J. Collins, "Enoch, Books of" *Dictionary of New Testament Background* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2000), pp. 314-315

- Read Hebrews 11:13-16. How do these verses picture the lives of these five individuals as a pilgrimage? What were they looking forward to?
- The word “welcome” in v. 16 means “to be happy about something, on the basis that it would prove particularly welcome... ‘to anticipate with pleasure.’”<sup>4</sup> As you think about God’s promises that you’re waiting to be fulfilled in your life, which promises are you anticipating with happiness and pleasure?
- All five characters from Genesis are described in v. 16 as people who “were longing for a better country—a heavenly one.” Read Galatians 5:26 and Hebrews 12:22-23. This “heavenly country” is the “heavenly Jerusalem,” a city “whose architect and builder is God” (Hebrews 11:10). If this is our destination as Christians as well, how should we live in the world today?

## PUTTING IT TO WORK

- Which of the five biblical characters from Genesis do you identify with most right now? Spend some time this week reflecting on that character, asking God to help you embody faith in your life like that character did in theirs.
- Spend time meditating on the phrase “foreigners and strangers on earth” (v. 13). Invite God to show you what it looks like to live this way in your current setting. Think about your work, your family, your neighborhood, and your world. Let God spark your imagination about what it looks like to live this way in our world today.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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<sup>4</sup>E Louw and J. P. Nida, *Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains* (United Bible Societies, 1989), 25.130.