

THE STRUGGLE TO PLEASE GOD IN A WORLD OF CAPTIVATING POWERS

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Hebrews 11:5-6

(1) A life of faithfulness will be one that seeks to live for God. (2) Know who your God is! (3) Cultivate the Dynamic Resources God has given you. (4) But don't merely cultivate the dynamic resources God has given you; (5) make it your singular ambition to seek Him! Why? God is coming for you; He is not merely bringing rewards for your faithfulness, His presence is also your reward; you belong to Him. He is not merely with you! You are with Him! He is your Elohim!

5 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. 6 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.

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. 1980 was a very significant year in the United States, and consequently, our world! I don't remember well. I was only 10 years old.
1. Ronald Reagan was elected President;
CNN started with a 24 hours news service; first ever of its kind;
Rubik's Cube debuted;
Pac-Man arcade game was released;
Fax Machines came out for the first time;
Camcorder for personal use was invented;
War broke out between Iraq and Iran;
John Lennon was shot and killed in New York;
Mt. Helen erupted.

2. I don't know what all this means but The Pittsburgh Steelers become the first NFL franchise to win 4 Super Bowls, defeating the Los Angeles Rams in Super Bowl XIV.
 3. Magnum PI with Tom Sellek & Thundarr the Barbarian the cartoon were introduced
Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* premiered in London
 4. It was also the year that Jean Paul Sartre, Alfred Hitchcock, John Bonham of Led Zeppelin, Steve McQueen, and May West passed away.
 5. New sounds were hitting the radio as society moved away from disco. Sugar Hill Gang introduced Rap music.
 6. From Hollywood some significant movies were released:

The Empire Strikes Back, 9 to 5, Coal Miner's Daughter, Private Benjamin, The Blues Brothers, Flash Gordon, and Friday the 13th were released.
 7. The Average Cost of a new house was \$68,700.00
The average income per year was \$19,500.00
The average monthly rent was \$300.00
The average cost of a gallon of gas was \$1.19
The average cost of a new car was \$7,200.00
 8. At 10 years of age, I was fixed on Blondie, Led Zeppelin, and of course, Air Supply's hit single, "All Out of Love." That song spoke deeply to me.
 9. And the most significant question everyone asked was, "Who shot Jr.?"
- B. But for me, life in this small East Texas goes on, very much as it has in past years. Full of its own coming and going with change coming very little-even if at all. Until, when chance came in 1980, something was

brilliantly created 141 miles away from where I lived in Lufkin. When I experienced it a decade later as a college student at SFA, hanging out with one of my best friends, it cultivated in me a certain desire that remains to this day. But I am not only the one who has been impacted by this life-changing creation! In fact, what was invented there has literally enriched many of our lives. For many of us this creation and other ones like it are now integrated into our family celebrations, traditions, and other festivities.

- C. Here's what happened. Not too far away from Aggie Land Blue Bell Creamery invented Natural Vanilla Bean Ice Cream. It is an all-natural vanilla ice cream with delicate flecks of natural vanilla beans. This took place in 1980. Since that taste of blue bell ice cream, the desire to taste its rich goodness remains. Every time I pass by frozen desserts I feel the desire to taste this Brenham, Texas delicacy! I hear the call within myself.

Transition 1:

- D. Putting my philosophy hat on:
1. What does it mean to desire something?
 - a. As a noun the word desire means: A strong feeling of wanting to have something or wishing for something to happen. "*A desire to work on this job.*" "*An eagerness to complete this assignment.*"
 - b. As a verb it means "*to strong wish for or want.*" Synonyms include "long for, yearn for, crave for, covet, aspire." "*I long to see Jerusalem.*"
 2. What is it about desiring something once you have experienced it? Will that desire ever be satisfied? What about desiring something you have never experienced? Why do certain things engender greater desires to have more of it whereas other experiences don't? Why do we struggle so much with certain desires that we know are truly good? Why do we desire things

that we know are cloaked in goodness but are actually useless, corrupted, or even dangerous? Then what are we to do with the motivating desires that are twisted...we've tasted destruction and we long for more.

Transition 2:

- E. This morning's message is titled, "**The Struggle to Please God in a World of Captivating Powers.**" I want you to walk with me through what it means to please God and why is it a struggle for many of us to please Him- even though we have experienced His goodness!
- F. What we will discover in our study of these superheroes of Hebrews chapter 11 is if we want to be the hero the world needs we are tasked, privileged, and blessed to seek to please God. But what does it look like to please God? How do we please God? What happens if we do please God? What happens if we don't please God? Why do we struggle so much with desire to please God?
- G. As we already know the primary purpose of chapter 11 is to give us examples of people who endured trials of various kinds by faith to encourage them not to give in, give up, or turn away from the Christian faith. They were faithful because they knew who was their God. All that He promised will come to pass. They trusted Him and so can you!
 - 1. I simply define faith as the *reliance* upon that which one has good reasons to believe is true and trustworthy. So, faith is not a leap into irrationality, a lack of evidence, or a suspension of logical reasoning. The characters listed in chapter 11 have good reasons to trust God-no matter what!
- H. See, as I began to study the life of Enoch ("*henoch*"), Scripture identifies him as one who pleased God, I started asking myself, to what extent do I desire to please God? To be sure, the object of the desire makes all the difference. Even with that distinction, why isn't my desire to please God all-compelling? If we say, "*Well, Doc Shock, it is because we are sinful.*" Indeed, but we have to be careful here! Here's why:

1. First, while it is an empirical fact that we are sinful, I often wonder how many times we use declarations of our "sinfulness" to justify our disobedience.
 2. And second, in Hebrews 11 we have example after example of those who did in fact God honor with their lives. This is where our study into this hero of the faith gets convicting.
- I. The author of Hebrews cites a historic but obscure champion who lived before the universal Flood occurred as an example of one who lived by faith. Between Abel and Noah was a man named Enoch (henoch). More accurately his name is pronounced as Henoch (N.T. Greek)! Not Enoch or in my East Texas slang, Enik!
1. His name in Hebrew literally means "*dedicated, consecrated,*" from Hanakh, "he dedicated,"
 2. From Henoch we also get the word "Hanukkah." The name of the holiday, Hanukkah, comes from the Hebrew word for "dedication," "consecration" or "inauguration." It refers to the Jews' rededication of the Second Temple in the second century B.C. after the Hellenistic Greeks of Syria had desecrated the Jewish center of worship by using it to worship Greek gods and the sacrifice of pigs.
- J. Enoch is an ancient example of what it looks like to please God. The faith that was given to Enoch is also given to us. Said differently, Enoch, whose life was characterized by faith in verses 1-3, stands as an example to us of what we can do and the type of people we can be no matter the myriads of captivating powers that surround us.
- K. Therefore, let's step into biblical history and observe what God's Word has to say about Enoch, the man who "*walked with God.*" Take your Bibles and turn to Genesis chapter 5 whereby Moses, the author of Genesis, offers a genealogy of the family of Adam. Genesis 5. Let's start at verse 18:

II. LIVE FOR GOD!

¹⁸ When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch. ¹⁹ After he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁰ Altogether, Jared lived a total of 962 years, and then he died. ²¹ When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. ²² After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³ Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

- A. Enoch, who was in the line of Seth, lived 365 years on this earth before God took him away. He and later, Elijah, are the two only biblical figures who entered into God's presence without having to suffer death. But there is something about Enoch that the author of Hebrew wants people to see so they can have hope, not turn away from God and return to their former lives. If you are disillusioned about your faith in Christ, weighed down by all sorts of pressures, and wondering if you should turn back or turn away, consider the life of Enoch. What did Enoch do?
1. The NET BIBLE puts it this way. "²⁴ Enoch walked with God, and then he disappeared because God took him away."
 2. The Orthodox Jewish Bible puts it this way: "²⁴ And Chanoch walked with HaElohim; and he was not; for Elohim took him."
 3. The LXX states. "Enoch was well pleasing to God."
 4. Notice that the word "walked" is used twice...first in verse 22 and in verse 24. So, in both descriptions we see the phrase, "He walked with God."

5. But if you were to look at this word “walk” in Biblical Hebrew, something unusual is revealed. In fact, it is a bit of a rare sight to behold in the Hebrew language. The Hebrew word “walk” is used in such a way that it does not simply mean accompany with or to have fellowship. It means to actually live for! Enoch lived for God. He actually lived for Him. God was His ultimate priority, purpose, and destiny.

Here's my first point:

(1) A life of faithfulness will be one that seeks to live for God.

- B. But you might say...easier said than done! We live in different times. Gotcha! Let's take some time consider the context in which Enoch was embedded.
- C. Though he lived on earth less than any of his forefathers, and even his own son, Methusaleh, who lived the longest, namely, 969 years, Enoch, in his 365 years on earth before he was raptured, so to speak, lived by faith. But for those three and half centuries plus, for Enoch, it must have been an unusual experience. Here's why:
1. Hebrew scholars say he would have known Adam. Even if he didn't, he would have known the stories about what it was like for Adam and Eve to be in God's presence in Eden before they disobeyed God in Genesis 3. How could he not?! But the world is now spoiled because of the entry of sin into the world through Adam (Romans 5:12).
 2. Perhaps Enoch looked around and tried to see the world through Adam's eyes...what everything used to be. Everything is now cursed. The land has changed. Plants and animals have changed. Human behavior has changed. Tasks have changed. One must now toil the land with the sweat of the brow; women labor in pain with birthing children. In the words of Solomon, all is now vaporous.
 3. Perhaps members of Adam's family sat around the fires telling stories. I wonder if Enoch could see if Adam's past actions were burdening him; could Enoch see the historic reality altering act of

disobedience on his face, in his eyes, and hear it in his voice? Adam knows he is forgiven but the weight of being responsible for all this...did it change him?

4. Maybe the story of the Serpent created certain fears. What happened to him? Who was this Serpent? What would the Serpent be doing? Where is he? I'm sure many questions were asked, fears stoked, and human frailties affirmed.

D. I think it is also safe to assume that members of Adam's extended family who surrounded Enoch were turning away from God, embracing the worst parts of their nature, promoting horrific evil. For just in the next chapter, that is, chapter 6, following the mysterious tragedy involving the sons of God and the daughters of men, Moses recorded what happened in Genesis 6:5-8:

"Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So, the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."

E. Ascribing human emotions to describe what God was experiencing (Anthropopathic language), God mourned the utter wickedness of humanity. It was so bad, that the only just thing to do would be to wipe out what God created. But **grace** found Noah and his family.

F. But from Enoch's perspective, I suspect the pain of seeing others pursue the captivating powers around him, perhaps extended family members he knew and loved, must have grieved him tremendously. I would also assume that the sinfulness around him helped prod Him too to live for what matters most; He refused to live like those around him. Their sinfulness motivated him to cling God to more.

- G. But we also might have another clue that he was living in a world of ruinous change and wickedness. He names his son Methuselah. Isn't that a curious name? Methuselah: The root "muth" means "death" is combined with "Shalach" which means to bring," or to send forth." Many scholars say that his name means, "*When he dies, judgment.*" Or "When he is dead, it shall be sent." Or "Man of the spear." Is this a foreshadowing of God's coming judgment? Well, in the year that Methuselah died, the world was judged when God sent the flood!
- H. But we have another insight into Enoch's context; take your Bibles and turn to Jude vv. 12-19:

¹² These are ^[a]spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried ^[b]about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; ¹³ raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

¹⁴ Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, ¹⁵ to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

Jude goes on to say:

¹⁶ These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage. ¹⁷ But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: ¹⁸ how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. ¹⁹ These are ^[c]sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

1. Just in Jude 15 the word "ungodly" is used four times to denote those who are evil!

2. Enoch's sensitivity to all the evil and their doom, I suspect, was cultivated by the growing evil he saw around him over the 365 years he lived on earth.
3. Lastly, I also take it that Enoch had hope as he looked at and heard the stories of his forefathers like Abel's worship of faith. Enoch will also be an example to not only to Noah, in view of what he will experience, but to each of us right now.

What does all of this say? **In the context of change, condemnation, and corruption Enoch lived for God.**

- J. Or are days so different? Many say we are living in "the last days." Whether we are or not, our times are indeed post-Christian; secularism reigns Western society today. Statistics show that around 88% of believers who go to college are abandoning their faith by their freshmen year. But I am fearful that we are part of that problem. We are not only compartmentalizing our lives, separating what is secular from what sacred where we work, live, and play, but we are also courting irrelevance because we fail to heed what people like Enoch did, live for God as a way of life!
- K. What does it look like to live for God as a way of life?

1. What it looks like to live for God as a way of life was exemplified in the New Testament in the lives of Peter, Paul, John, and Jesus' half-brothers James and Jude. In fact, they describe what it means to live for God with one descriptive word. As you think about this one word, it is eye opening! What is this word?
2. It is the word "slave" or "*bond-servant*." Listen to the first verse written by Jude and the way he described himself:

"Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James."

Living for God is being a slave of Jesus Christ.

3. But if James, Jude, Peter, and Paul were able to live for God as "slaves" of Christ, then it is possible for us to do the same. They are just as human as we are. But what does it look like to be a slave for Christ?
 - a. One who lives for God is resolved to turn away from the idolatry of self-centeredness.
 - b. One who lives for God is willing to suffer for Jesus Christ even if it costs them everything... their day planner, their resources, their dreams.
 - c. One who lives for God exchanges one's priorities and desires for God's priorities and desires.
 - d. One who lives for God follows hard after Him in the details of daily living because He knows whom he is serving.
 - e. One who lives for God seeks to anticipate, meet, and exceed what God desires even if this means one receive no personal benefits.
 - f. One who lives for God is obedient to His commands.
 - g. One lives for God will separate from what will bring to dishonor to Him.
 4. The irony is that when we are slaves of Christ we experience our full humanity. But when we are not a slaves of Christ, our humanity will be less than. Pause and let that sink in.
- L. What created the difference for Enoch? What was it that generated the overriding desire to live for God, especially in a world of change, corruption, and condemnation? We already saw a clue in Genesis 5 in the repeated phrase, "*He walked with Elohim.*" Let's return to Hebrews 11:5-6 and let's see what motivated Enoch to live for God:

5 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. 6 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.

1. First, Enoch really, really understood that God exists. God is God! In Genesis 5 when Moses records Enoch walked with God. The word for God is Elohim, the plurality of majesty:

"The basic meaning behind the name *Elohim* is one of strength or power of effect. He is the Supreme One! Elohim is the infinite, all-powerful God who shows by His works that He is the creator, sustainer, and supreme judge of the world. "Bring to an end the violence of the wicked and make the righteous secure—you, the righteous [*Elohim*] who probes minds and hearts" [Psalm 7:9]."

- a. Genesis 1:1: In the Beginning God [*Elohim*] created the heavens and the earth.
- b. Exodus 3:14 And God [*Elohim*] said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM."
- c. In the context of divine judgment, trouble, and war, the Psalmist in 46:10 shouts out to us, "*Be still in and know that I am God* [*Elohim*]." This popular phrase doesn't mean to slow down and spend some alone time with God. No! The context means that you need to wake up! Impending judgment is about to come upon God's enemies. God is God! He is to be exalted.

Psalm 46:8-11 (NIV):

8 Come and see what the Lord has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.
9 He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields[a] with fire.

10 He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."
11 The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

- d. This is the same God that Isaiah saw when he said in Isaiah 6:5:

"Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I will dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts [Yahweh]."

- e. This is who John saw in Revelation 1:17 when he said, "And when I saw Him, I fell at his feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last."

- f. "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." ~ A. W. Tozer

2. But there is another reason why we should live for God as a way of life: These are the words of Jesus in Mark 12:13-17:

13 Later, they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to catch Jesus in His words. 14 "Teacher," they said, "we know that You are honest and are swayed by no one. Indeed, You are impartial and teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Now then, is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay them or not?" 15 But Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and said, "Why are you testing Me? Bring Me a denarius to inspect." 16 So they brought it, and He asked them, "Whose likeness is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they answered. 17 Then Jesus told them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

Whose image is on you? You belong to God!

**(1) A life of faithfulness will be one that seeks to live for God.
(2) Why live for God? God is God!**

- M. A life of faithfulness will be one that seeks to live for God. Know who your God is! But don't merely affirm His presence, cultivate dynamic resources God has given you to please Him!

**III. CULTIVATE DYNAMIC RESOURCES GOD HAS GIVEN YOU
TO LIVE FOR HIM:**

- A. I find it curious, convicting, and hopeful that Enoch was able to live for God in a cultural context of change, condemnation, and corruption. When I compare the fact that He did live for God, and I struggle so much with the desire to live for God, what did Enoch have that I don't? But then I realized (which made the problem more acute for me, but also made me more hopeful) I have resources Enoch never had...to live for God.

Let's compare and contrast what Enoch had with the resources we have:

1. I would think Enoch heard of God's promise that one day in the future the Serpent will be defeated. God said to the Serpent in *Genesis 3:14-15* "He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." But we have a 2,000+ year old factual historical account of that Messiah who did in fact come! Jesus Christ came to earth, died on the cross for our sins, and rose bodily from the dead. In the resurrection of Jesus, He defeated the enemy. Jesus took care of the "sin problem" and when He returns at the Second coming, He will take care of the problem of evil. In *Revelation 21-22* Eden will be reborn with a new heaven and a new earth. We have the full revelation of Jesus Christ.

2. Enoch did not have the Bible. He had oral stories of what God disclosed passed down to him. Perhaps he even heard it from Adam's own lips. But we have the whole counsel of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation superintended by the Holy Spirit, who is fully and equally God.
 3. Enoch walked with God. He lived for God. He lived in the age or dispensation of conscience (Genesis 3:23-8:19); his conscience guided him. But when we placed our faith in Christ, we received a new nature, a new identity, a permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit whereby we are in Christ and Christ is in us. We have a new heart to love Him; a new mind to know Him; a new will to follow Him.
 4. While Enoch had his family, He did not have the universal and local church. He did not have people who surrounded Him who were baptized into one body by the Holy Spirit, spiritually gifted, and serving the community and beyond as salt and light.
 5. But on the other hand, Enoch had something we don't have. Enoch lived 365 years. He developed wisdom. He was able to separate what is wise from unwise, what works from what doesn't; what is foolish living from what is great living; right priorities from false ones; what is essential from what is non-essential; what faith really looks like from what is counterfeit. In a growing environment of wickedness He knew who should be the object of His affections. He saw over three times what we will ever see on this earth!
 6. King Solomon, though even wiser Enoch but lived a shorter life, summed it all up at the end of his life when he exclaimed that since all things are vaporous under the sun, it is best to "*fear God and keep His commandments.*"
- B. What's the upshot? We have more resources than Enoch did to live for God. But He demonstrated wisdom that the best way to live is to live for God.

(1) A life of faithfulness will be one that seeks to live for God. (2) Know who your God is! He is God! (3) But don't merely affirm His presence in

your life; (4) Cultivate the Dynamic Resources God has given you to live for Him: The Holy Spirit; The Scriptures; The Church; Prayer.

IV. DILIGENTLY SEEK THE GOD OF REWARDS:

A. We now come to verse 6 (Hebrews 11:6):

6 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.

B. Negatively, if we don't affirm God's existence, then how can we live by faith? How can we please Him? And if we don't seek after God in the way we live, then how and why would He reward us? How is that faithfulness? The phrase, "*who seek him*" at the end of verse 6 is in present tense. This totally compliments what we know about Enoch as one who lived for God as a way of life.

C. But there is another way to look at this...

We see the abundance of God. First, God invites anyone to come to Him. It doesn't matter your background, baggage, or burdens, you are invited to walk by faith. Walking by faith is not only for the pastor, elders, and deacons, or the doctrinally elite. Walking by faith is not only believing God exists, but also believing that He will reward the faithful. Why did the author of Hebrews say this: Like we have seen in warning passages already in the Book of Hebrews, his audience were tempted to let go of hope. But if we will diligently seek after him (once again, which is in present tense), we will experience rewards He has to offer.

D. And one day, some of us will experience a divine reward similar to Enoch...perhaps it will even happen today:

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

1. If we have placed our faith in Jesus Christ, believing that He is the Son of God who died on the cross for our sins, and the rapture does not occur while we are alive, then the moment we take our last breath on the earth, the very next breath will be celestial. And one day our souls in heaven will be reunited with our glorified bodies... for you, each of you, are inherently valuable.
2. Job put it this way in Job 19:26: *And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes-I and not another. How my heart yearns within me!*

(1) A life of faithfulness will be one that seeks to live for God. (2) Know who your God is! (3) Cultivate the Dynamic Resources God has given you. (4) But don't merely cultivate the dynamic resources God has given you, make it your singular ambition to seek Him; Why? God is coming for you; He is not merely bringing rewards for your faithfulness, His presence is also your reward; you belong to Him. He is not merely with you! You are with Him! He is your Elohim!

V. CONCLUSION:

- A. If you are like me, why do we struggle so much in our desire to please God as a way of life? After reflecting upon Enoch for some time, I've come to a simple conclusion: My vision of God is too small; the focus on me and my circumstances are too large! God is on my lips; but idols occupy my heart. How do I know?
- B. Well, I came across a list of helpful questions by A. W. Tozer. These questions are relevant here for us today. As I present these

questions, where does God fit into the answers? Where is He in the answers you give?

1. What do you want the most?
2. What do you think about the most?
3. How do you use your money?
4. What do you do with your leisure time?
5. Who and what do you admire?
6. What do you laugh at?

C. Once again, to what extent is *Elohim* found in your answers?

But I am not without hope. I do desire him. Have you placed your faith in Jesus Christ? If so, you are not without hope either! If you want to live a life of faithfulness, then be intentional! Live for God! Why? God is Elohim! Cultivate the dynamic resources God has given you. But don't merely cultivate the resources God has given you; make it your singular ambition to seek Him Why? God is coming for you! He is not merely bringing rewards for your faithfulness; He is also your reward; His presence in your life is also your reward; you belong to Him!

VI. PRAYER:

- 1 O Lord, our Lord,
How excellent *is* Your name in all the earth,
Who have set Your glory above the heavens!
- 2 Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants
You have ordained strength,
Because of Your enemies,
That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.
- 3 When we consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,
- 4 What is man that You are mindful of him,
And the son of man that You visit him?
- 5 For You have made Him a little lower than the angels,
And You have crowned him with glory and honor.
- 6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands;
You have put all *things* under his feet,
- 7 All sheep and oxen—
Even the beasts of the field,

8 The birds of the air,
And the fish of the sea
That pass through the paths of the seas.
9 O Lord, our Lord,
How excellent *is* Your name in all the earth!

"