

*now faith is the assurance
of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen*

- Hebrews 11:1 -

Lumin Notes

CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINES

PACK IN LUNCHBOXES

HIDE FOR A STRANGER

STASH IN A BRIEFCASE

HAND TO A LOVED ONE

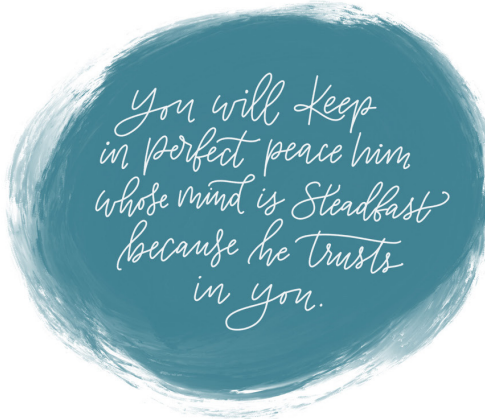
GIVE TO A FRIEND IN NEED

SHARE THE LOVE, SPREAD HIS TRUTH

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LOVE!
YOU!

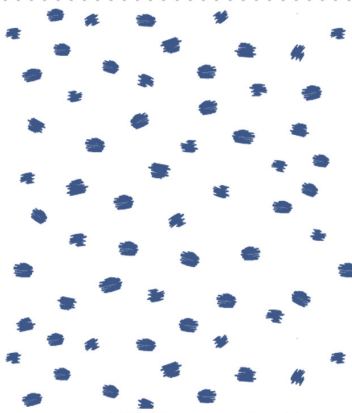
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believe
in HIS
promises

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Love
♥
You!

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Jesus
Loves
me

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I am
praying
for you

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You're in
my ♥

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Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)

The 11th chapter of Hebrews is rich in examples of men (and women) who acted “by faith”. Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, and many more behaved in a certain way because of faith. But what is faith? What does it mean to have faith? And maybe more importantly, what does faith do?

The beginning of the chapter gives a definition of faith: the assurance, substance, confidence (depending on the translation) of things hoped for and the conviction, evidence, proof of things not seen. This left my head spinning for days as I started to unravel and compare the different translations. Faith in a secular sense is having complete trust or confidence in someone or something. The “things hoped for” in verse 1 are (thankfully) not the flippant, selfish, temporal wishes of our sinful human longings or desires. The “things hoped for” are the divine promises of God: the second coming of Christ, the resurrection, heaven. . . So as Christians, we are to have confidence that the promises of God will come true, so we believe in them and act accordingly. But the objects/ideas to which our faith is attached are unseen, invisible. Yet it is supposed to be the proof and conviction behind our faith. Head spinning again...until you consider the first “by faith” statement of the chapter found in the third verse:

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. Hebrews 11:3 (ESV)

Immediately, my favorite song popped into my head. Pause now, and ask Alexa or Siri or your favorite personal assistant to play “So Will I (100 Billion X)”. The Tori Kelly version is my favorite. Now pay attention to the first verse (and then you might want to listen five more times. For me, there is a cumulative effect of listening to this song on repeat that wrecks me.)

*God of creation
There at the start
Before the beginning of time
With no point of reference
You spoke to the dark
And fleshed out the wonder of light
And as You speak
A hundred billion galaxies are born
In the vapor of Your breath the planets form*

This is what John Piper would call God’s fingerprints; the order, beauty, and greatness of the world - evidence, proof, conviction that God made the world; he spoke it into existence. Faith is perceiving and then believing that evidence. Warren E. Berkley suggests that faith is “exposure to evidence resulting in belief.” We can affirm that something is true based on the strong evidence (sometimes unseen) to which we have been exposed. Have you noticed the perfectly consistent coming and going of the sun each day and night? What about the rich greenness that surrounds us as the season unfolds? Can you count the stars in the night sky? God did that. God does that. Every day. For you. For me. And how do we respond? Do we respond with a faith that believes in His promises?





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

● ○ ○ FORMOM

Do you have the faith described in Hebrews 11:1?

Have you acted on that faith?

How do your children know that you "walk by faith"?

● ● ○ FOR KIDS

What do you believe but have not seen?

In whom do you put your faith and confidence?

Who speaks truth into your life?



LUMIN | Truth Illuminated
Psalms 119:130 The unfolding of your words give light - it gives understanding to the simple. God's word providing light in our lives. His words iLUMINating truth in our hearts.

HIS WORDS | YOUR HEART

● ○ ○

● ● ○

FOR MOM

FOR KIDS



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