



# APPNOTES

**Date:** Mar 09-13, 2020

**Series:** Witness: The Miracles of Jesus

**Hebrews 11:1-6 (For further encouragement read all of Hebrews 11)** The skeptic says, "Seeing is believing. Unless I see it, I can't accept it as true." God says just the opposite in Hebrews 11:1, "Faith is believing what we don't see." Hebrews 11 lists the great people of God in the Old Testament and the incredible things they believed God would do. Their belief was based purely on faith, having no visible or tangible signs that what God said would happen. By faith an ark was built, city walls fell, people walked through a sea. By faith they conquered kingdoms, shut the mouths of lions, healed illnesses and saw the dead raised to life. By faith they stepped out to do what God asked. The most important thing God asks of us is to believe on His Son Jesus Christ. Can you trust God on this? He promises eternal life, and He is faithful. Some things have to be believed to be seen.

**John 11:25-26** The casket is open. A person you have loved intensely lies in it, cold, still, lifeless. You cannot will his eyes to open or mouth to speak, no matter how hard you stare. A wall of silence separates you from your loved one. This is an ultimate faith-test moment. Is Christ's promise true? Did my husband believe hard enough and live well enough to make it to heaven? Is there really such a place? Nothing can cause us to question our faith as deeply as a casket bearing someone dear to us. But this is exactly the moment when Jesus asks us to believe Him and not doubt His promise: "The one who believes in me will live, even though they die ...." Our hope and future lie not in a casket, but in the promise of everlasting life we claim by faith and trust God to complete. "Do you believe this?"

**1 John 1:9** What sins riddle your past and present? Was there an abortion? Have you slept your way through life with several partners? Are you hiding visits to an illicit website? Did random experimentation become full-fledged drug use? Maybe your sin is pride, a critical spirit, a caustic tongue. When we honestly evaluate our lives to determine if we're living in obedience to God, the stench rises. We gag with our own sinfulness and filth and wonder if there can be any second chances, any do-overs, any forgiveness. Are we just too far gone for God's grace to reach us? God gifts us with His

greatest miracle when He makes us this offer, “Admit your sins—make a clean breast of them. I’m true to My promises. I will forgive your sins because of my Son and give you a clean slate.” Believe God for your forgiveness. Trust Him to do what He promised.

**Joshua 1:9 and Isaiah 43:2** When have you been most frightened? My “scary list” still raises my blood pressure and fear factor. Once a flash flood engulfed my car, leaving me waist deep in water with another vehicle jammed against my driver’s side door. But the scariest moments of my life were the day-to-day struggles of single parenting and the accompanying fears for the good of my children. Conversely, in God’s plan, “Scary = Opportunity.” Opportunity to trust God. Opportunity to throw our days and our doings into the promised care and protection of our Father God who will never leave or forsake us. He promises help and strength in our trouble. The hope of scary situations exists in the “throw-back”—we are “thrown back” to what matters: crying out our need to God for His presence and help. When your personal floods rise and fear abounds, know that God is in it with you ... just as He promised.

**2 Chronicles 20:1-4, 13-17, 20-22** Powerless to face the vast army approaching his people, King Jehoshaphat sought God’s help. The Word of the Lord came to him: “Don’t be discouraged or afraid. The battle is not yours but God’s. The Lord will be with you.” The king responded to God by acting on his faith. Jehoshaphat gathered his people to thank and praise the Lord for the victory not yet accomplished. As they began to sing, the attacking armies were surrounded and defeated. What “vast army” of destruction do you face? Cancer, divorce, job loss, assaults on every side? Let your faith be shown in your action. In your helpless situations, lean into God and live in a way that demonstrates your confidence in His victory even though the odds are overwhelming. Take up an active position of faith. Thank God for His presence and power. Like Jehoshaphat, your crisis faith will become confident faith.

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