



**Are You Sure?**

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This is a Picture of .....





# Fathoming Faith

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- **11** Now faith is the [a]assurance of *things* [b]hoped for, the [c]conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> For by it the men of old [d]gained approval.
- Hope – elpis – all the amazing promises of God that He is in the process of releasing into our lives. Not all realized yet, but we are rock-solid certain they are true and will all be ours!



# So Faith Is ...

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- Assurance and Conviction – you might say the Manifestation – of a life firmly built on that solid, unshakeable hope
- Faith defines and directs how we LIVE everyday because our lives are informed by and guided by that hope
- Kind of like in James 3:18 where he says I will show you my faith by my works
- If our hope is real, our response to it is called faith, and that faith is revealed in how we think and feel and act and LIVE



# But verse 3 is .... Different-ish

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- <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the [e]worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.
- First impression, we are supposed to take on faith that God spoke the world into existence out of nothing – which is cool
- Only, that seems like more of a proposition to accept, not a hope to surrender to



# Long Story Short

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- The Gk word here that is translated World or Universe, is also – in maybe one translation – translated as “age or ages”
- The Word is “Aion” has nothing WHATSOEVER to do with planets or the universe or anything related with creating PHYSICAL/MATERIAL REALITY.
- Could have used kosmos, but didn't



# AION - NAS Concordance

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## ***Word Origin***

from a prim. root = continued duration

## ***Definition***

a space of time, an age

## ***NASB Translation***

age (20), ages (6), ancient time (1), beginning of time (1), course (1), eternal (2), eternity (1), ever\* (2), forever (27), forever and ever (20), forevermore (2), long ago (1), never\* (1), old (1), time (1), world (7), worlds (1).



# More Fun Facts

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In the NT, Aion is sometimes used to describe the kingdom of God, like in Revelation 11:15 where we hear loud voices declaring “The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His [i]Christ; and He will reign **forever and ever.**” – AION!





# So, to Sum Up

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- It seems clear to me that Aion is somehow describing the ever flowing, ever active move of God across eternity
- Incidentally, Aion = root name of a lot of rivers in Europe, because rivers keep flowing; keep going and keep moving – i.e Stratford on Avon
- Prepared (arranged or set in place) by the word (rhema, i.e. spoken) Word of God in a way can't comprehend and never saw coming



# And NOW 11:3 Makes Sense

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- “By faith, we surrender to the eternal plan and purposes of God that He has put in place from the foundation of the world, knowing it will FLOW on forever, fueled by His power and presence for His glory – created out of nothing but the substance of his Glory”
- And we can't see or understand, we can only trust Him and surrender to Him, commit our lives to Him EVERYDAY, while He works in us for His good pleasure



# Which is All Really Cool, But

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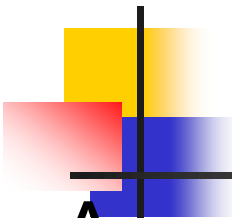
- We are asked to completely surrender – like a leaf, to this flow of God
- It plays havoc with our human desire and urgent – desperate? – need for CERTAINTY
- How many of you love living with Uncertainty?
- Why is living with Uncertainty so HARD?
- How do we usually deal with Uncertainty?
- Does it work?



# Oswalt Chambers 4/29


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Our natural inclination is to be so precise—trying always to forecast accurately what will happen next—that we look upon uncertainty as a **bad thing**. We think that we must reach some predetermined goal, but that is not the nature of the spiritual life. The nature of the spiritual life is that we are certain in our uncertainty.




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As soon as we abandon ourselves to God and do the task He has placed closest to us, He begins to fill our lives with surprises. When we become simply a promoter or a defender of a particular belief, something within us dies. That is not believing God— it is only believing our belief about Him. Jesus said, “...unless you...become as little children...” (Matthew 18:3). The spiritual life is the life of a child. We are not uncertain of God, just uncertain of what He is going to do next.



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Certainty is the mark of the commonsense life— gracious uncertainty is the mark of the spiritual life. To be certain of God means that we are uncertain in all our ways, not knowing what tomorrow may bring. This is generally expressed with a sigh of sadness, but it should be an expression of breathless expectation. We are uncertain of the next step, but **we are certain of God.**



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If our certainty is only in our beliefs, we develop a sense of self-righteousness, become overly critical, and are **limited** by the view that our beliefs are complete and settled. But when we have the right relationship with God, life is full of spontaneous, joyful uncertainty and expectancy. Jesus said, "...believe also in Me" (John 14:1), **NOT** "Believe certain things about Me". Leave everything to Him and it will be gloriously and graciously uncertain how He will come in— **but you can be certain that He will come. Remain faithful to Him.**



# Learning to Love Uncertainty

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- Certainty=Control, I want to KNOW so I don't have to TRUST
- We become analysts instead of believers, "Oh, I see what God is probably doing ..."
- Latest HLCN story involves a situation where we felt something was all settled ...
- Comes Down to this: we NEVER KNOW WHAT GOD KNOWS AND WE NEVER SEE WHAT HE SEES, WE DO NOT KNOW HIS PLAN OR PURPOSED UNTIL HE REVEALS IT





# Are You Sure?

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- BUT WE TRUST HIM ANYWAY, BECAUSE HE IS WORTHY!!!
- What is it that you can ALWAYS be SURE about?
- Where must you always be ready and willing to live with gracious, joyous uncertainty?
- So TAKE A SEAT



# Jesus + Nothing = EVERYTHING

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- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY