



study number four



Copyright ©2013 Lutheran Women's Missionary League P.O. Box 411993 St. Louis, MO 63141-1993

800-252-LWML (5965)

Fax: 314-268-1532 Email: lwml@lwml.org Website: www.lwml.org



A Study of Hebrews 11:1 & 6

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. ... And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Lesson One - Confident Faith

Lesson Two - Trusting our Eyes of Faith

Lesson Three - Pleasing God

Lesson Four - Believing IS Seeing

Note: Bible references are from the New International Version (NIV), unless otherwise noted.



Confident Faith

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for (Hebrews 11:1a).

When I was a little girl having faith in people came easy to me. I believed my parents when they told me right from wrong because I had faith that they loved me beyond a shadow of a doubt and would never do anything to intentionally hurt me.

I had faith that my three sisters loved me enough to risk their lives for me. Even though at times my older sister and I fought over toys and where to split our shared bedroom right down the middle with duct tape, I knew deep down that she loved me. That I was safe.

I had faith that people had my best interest at heart. I believed that teachers were always right and that policemen were always on hand to protect my little corner of the world.

I had faith in people.

Not much has changed over the years except for one very important thing. Now I have faith in someone else, too. A friend who loves me more than I could have ever imagined. Sure hope beyond a shadow of a doubt. One who actually **did** die for me, even though I never met Him in the flesh.

I had hoped for Him my whole life – I just didn't know it. His name? Redeemer, Rock, Alpha and Omega, Lamb of God, Friend, Protector, Faith Restorer, Hope Provider, Savior, Christ, Jesus. When Jesus became a part of my life, it wasn't just a small part. I was acutely aware that I was safe like never before. Safe from the inside out.

I was now undertaking the greatest adventure of my life. Jesus had a hold of me and He wasn't letting go.

This study focuses on faith. No topic holds greater significance in our Christian lives than faith. If we have it, we have it all. Eternal life. If we don't, we're in for a world of hurt and trouble.

Take a moment to write out Hebrews 11:1 & 6:

Now read these verses aloud. These verses are our memory verses for this study. I encourage you to write them on index cards and place them in various locations where you spend the most time.

In this first lesson, we are studying Hebrews 11:1a, which states, *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for.* Four particular words jump out at me right off the bat. "Faith is being sure." Webster's defines *sure* as "impossible to doubt or dispute." Those are pretty strong words. In other versions of Scripture, *sure* is translated as assurance, confidence, substance, and reality. What does this tell us? True Biblical faith is not an emotional kind of wishful thinking. It is an inner conviction based on the inerrant Word of God.

What does Romans 10:17 tell us?

God has allowed me to discover a very important fact about faith: Faith that remains unchallenged ordinarily remains unchanged.

At times, we are put into situations where we must either "put up or shut up." We either have the sure faith that God will see us through our circumstances, or we regress into a safe zone and choose to be ineffectual.

Faith is placing our belief and trust in something or somebody outside of yourself, and then acting on that belief. As Christians, we place our faith in God. Our **whole** faith. No "investment diversity" needed. All eggs in one basket is the only strategy that will work.

Let's look at some examples in Scripture of those heroes of faith who placed their trust in God despite confusing circumstances or overwhelming odds:

•	Abraham asked to sacrifice his only son. See Abraham's response in Genesis 22:8
	•
•	King Jehoshaphat as he faced an overwhelming enemy army. See 2 Chronicles 20:12
•	David facing Goliath. See 1 Samuel 17:37

Three specific ingredients prove vital to building and maintaining a strong faith. These three things greatly increase our belief in and view of God. If we have a small view of God, we have a corresponding small faith. But if we truly understand that we have a big God, we have a Goliath-sized faith. We will never have faith that exceeds the strength and love of our mighty God.

So what are the three ingredients?

1. Prayer.

Constant communication (prayer) with God is vital to building and maintaining a strong faith. Take a moment to see what the following verses say about prayer:

1 Chronicles 16:11	 	
Matthew 7:7	 	
Luke 18:1		
John 16:24		
Ephesians 6:18		
1 Thessalonians 5:17		

Jesus gives us numerous examples in Scripture regarding the importance of prayer. Do you have a special place in your home or yard as a designated prayer place?

I have a chair and ottoman in the corner of my study. When we have a designated place set aside for regular communication with God, we are reminded to spend time with our Father each time we walk by it. Of course, we can pray anywhere at any time, but I am referring to a place of **regular**, **daily** prayer with our God and King.

Jesus had a favorite place. Over and over in Scripture, we see where Jesus went up the mountainside or to a quiet place to pray. Many of those instances refer to Gethsemane. Yes, **that** Gethsemane.

The name of that historic site means "olive press," appropriately reflecting the presence of extensive olive groves on this western slope of the Mount of Olives. Although it is usually referred to as a **garden**, this was most likely an enclosed orchard. The two-mile long Mount of Olives is a flattened ridge located just a few hundred yards east of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Gethsemane was located on the Mount of Olives.

If Jesus had favorite places during His earthly ministry, the Mount of Olives was certainly one of them. He spent much time there. He often traveled over it on His way to Bethany to visit His friend Lazarus. Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey took place over and down the Mount of Olives (Luke 19:28-44). Jesus prayed with His disciples there just before His arrest that fateful night (Luke 22:39-46). Jesus appeared to the disciples on the Mount of Olives after His resurrection, and He ascended into heaven from there (Acts 1:1-12).

Since Jesus sought such a place to spend regular time with His Father, I would suggest that it would be a good idea for us, as well. Gethsemane was a place of great prayer and comfort. When Jesus knew the end of His

earthy ministry was near, that's the place He went.

Take a moment to read through Mark 14:32-39. What stands out to you in these verses?

2. Regularly studying God's Word.

Romans 10:17 tells us, *Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.* Spending regular time in God's Word increases our faith.

A few years ago, I made a commitment to read through the entire Bible - something I had never done before. As I read through the prescribed verses, I kept a journal of new things God showed me each morning. My journal filled up fast. In fact, I found it hard at times to stay on track with the daily readings because a particular passage would catch my eye and send me on a rabbit chase of new discovery.

Daily, regular time in God's Word is **essential** to our faith building and growth. What does John 17:17 tell us?

Do you spend regular time in God's Word on a daily or weekly basis? What does that look like?

3. Listening to God.

For what? His voice and leading. In today's culture, we can barely hear ourselves think over the chaos of cell phones, iPods, iPads, laptops, television, and radio. You name it and it's interrupted our ability to properly hear God.

Only by tuning into what God has to say will we know His plan and direction for our lives. The more we tune into Him, the more we recognize His whispers over the enemy's whispers.

Record these wise verses from Proverbs 8:32-34:
Let's review our Bible memory verse for our study. Write out Hebrews 11:1 & 6 once more:
Faith means believing in advance what only makes sense in reverse. Are you up for the adventure?
rath means believing in advance what only makes sense in reverse. Are you up for the adventure?
Take some time to reflect on which part of this study particularly spoke to your situation today.
Close with prayer:
‡ Father, you ARE the biggest adventure - the greatest adventure. I place my hope and faith in You and You alone. Lead and guide me for Your Name's sake and for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen. ‡

Lesson Zwo

Trusting Our Eyes of Faith

And certain of what we do not see (Hebrews 11:1b).

I have always loved to swim. To this day, I still swim like a fish and love spending a sunny day in the water.

One day when I was about 10, my Dad decided that it was time for me to learn how to dive properly. Dad was a great swimmer and certified SCUBA instructor, so I had the best teacher in the world.

I was eager for this new adventure, so I scrambled out of the pool and made a beeline for the diving board. I remained confident in this new adventure – that is until I reached the end of the diving board and looked down. A standard diving board only three or four feet from the water, it had always looked so short from the pool. But it was an entirely different matter all together looking down from on top of it.

I froze in my tracks and became mesmerized by the sun glinting off of the bottom of the pool. It looked **so far** down. My frightened eyes sought out my Dad's. He had swum to the side of the pool right by the diving board and started encouraging me.

That changed everything. As long as I kept my eyes on Dad, I wasn't afraid to jump. That doesn't mean that the occasional water surface back slap from an improper back dive didn't happen, but as long as I kept my eyes on Dad and could hear his encouragement, I was fearless.

The same is true with our faith. As long as we keep our eyes of faith on God, listen to His calm voice, and trust that He will never hurt us, we are fearless to do what He has called us to do.

Take a moment to write out Hebrews 11:1 & 6:

In this second lesson, we turn our attention to Hebrews 11:1b, which states, *And certain of what we do not see*. Hebrews 11 does not define faith, but provides a description of what faith does and how it works.

Faith enables the believing soul to treat the future as present and the invisible as seen. By faith, Noah saw coming judgment. Abraham saw a future city. Joseph saw the exodus from Egypt. Moses saw God.

Faith accomplishes things because there is power in the Word of God. What does Genesis 1:3 say?

God simply *spoke* and it was. God still speaks to us. When we believe what He says, that same power that created the heavens and the earth accomplishes great things in our lives.

"Certain" in other Biblical versions of Hebrews 11:1b is translated as conviction, foundation, proof, assurance, knowing, and sure. In the King James Version, **certain** is translated as - **evidence** - In the original Greek, the word **evidence** refers to - **a proof** - God has proven over and over in Scripture that He keeps His promises.

My grandmother used to say, "The proof is in the pudding." Well, the proof is in God's Word. The more we try to define God or explain His ways, we cannot help but minimize Him. We will never grasp the enormity of our God. But we can be certain of things we cannot even see with our physical eyes. There is more to life than what meets the eye. That's what faith is. Faith is trusting what the eyes can't see.

Let's take a moment to look at a few examples in Scripture of the faithful who took the leap with eyes of faith – despite what their physical eyes saw.

Eyes see a prowling lion. Faith sees Daniel's angel. (Daniel 6:16-23)

Eyes see the destruction. Faith sees the promise. (Genesis 9:11-17)

Eyes see giants. Faith sees a conquering God. (1 Samuel 17:1-50)

What about you and me?

Our eyes see our faults. Our faith sees our Savior.

Our eyes see our guilt. Our faith sees His blood.

Our eyes see our grave. Our faith sees a city whose builder and maker is God.

Our eyes look into the mirror to see a sinner, a failure, a promise-breaker. Through the eyes of faith that comes through God's Word, we look in the mirror and see a robed prodigal, bearing the ring of grace on our finger and the kiss of our Father on our face.

What faults do you tend to focus on in your own life? In the lives of others?

A pastor's wife once told her five year old son to wash his hands before he ate because germs lived in the dirt. The little boy got mad and said, "Jesus and germs! That's all I ever hear about in this house, and I can't see either one!"

Does that frustration sound familiar when it comes to understanding God's plans?

Hope stands as a very important ingredient of faith. They go hand in hand. Our hope is a sure and certain confidence. Not a wish – a certainty. When we hope for something, we have faith that it will one day come to pass. When we hope strongly, we have a faith that's willing to risk much to reach our destination.

•	take a moment to look at things in which we are to place our hope:
I	ope in God: Psalm 25:3, 5, 21; 39:7; 42:11
Γ	he Lord: Psalm 31:24
L	ove: Psalm 33:18
\sim	adla Namas Basha 52:0
J	od's Name: Psalm 52:9
R	est: Psalm 62:5
G	od's Laws: Psalm 119:43
\mathbf{C}	ad's Word. Pealm 110:74
G	od's Word: Psalm 119:74
R	edemption: Psalm 130:7
D	iscipline: Proverbs 19:18
R	esurrection of the Dead: Acts 23:6
	esuitection of the Dead. Tees 25.0
_	
G	od's Promises: Acts 26:6
V	/hat is Unseen: Romans 8:24-25

Take a moment to think about something that you have hoped for recently. What was it?

How did you see God working in that situation?
Peter provides one of the best examples we see in Scripture of a risky faith. He chose to walk on water toward Jesus in a storm. Take a moment to read Matthew 14:22-31.
We notice several important occurrences in these passages. Peter was the only one who had the faith and courage to get out of the boat. Even though the wind and waves were tremendous, he needed to know something so urgently that he was willing to risk his life.
Was Jesus truly able and willing to save him? Have you ever asked that same question?
Notice that Peter stayed afloat as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus. But once he took his eyes off Jesus and noticed the wind, Peter began to sink. But Peter took away something that escaped the other 11 disciples in the boat. Peter's eyes were the only ones that locked eyes with Jesus. Only Peter discovered beyond the shadow of a doubt that Jesus was strong and powerful enough to rescue him.
Peter's effort may have been called a failure, but I would suggest that there were 11 bigger failures in the boat. They did not have the faith to even try. Much like my diving lessons with Dad. As long as my eyes locked with Dad's, I knew that I could do whatever he asked of me. But if I looked away from Dad, I became frightened.
Let's review our Bible memory verse for this study.
Write out Hebrews 11:1 & 6 once more:

Having a strong faith and hoping in the Lord that He will do all that He says He will do is vital to a Christian's spiritual journey. As long as we keep our eyes of faith on our Father, He will lead and guide us along the path He has chosen for us.

Come on.

Get out of the boat.

The water's fine.

Close with prayer:

♣ Father, You are faithful to do immeasurably more than I can hope or imagine. Thank You for the examples of great faith in Your Word. Thank You for the sure and certain confidence that You give to me as I place my hope in You. Help me draw on Your strength especially when I am weak. In Jesus' name, Amen. ♣

Lesson Three

Pleasing God

And without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6a).

One day at work, I relieved the receptionist for lunch at the law firm where I work. I had taken all of my research materials for this Bible study to the front desk with me since it was normally quiet and there would be minimal interruptions.

I situated myself at her desk, spread out my research, and dug in. After a moment, a man got off the elevator and came in for an appointment with one of our attorneys. The gentleman and I exchanged pleasantries as I notified our attorney that his appointment had arrived. I went back to reading and making notes from the Bible study research on the desk.

As the man waited to be greeted by the attorney, he noticed the large stack of papers and asked if I was reading a novel. I laughed and responded that I was doing research to write a Bible study about faith.

The man paused and looked intently at me. After a long moment, he finally asked if having faith was hard. His question took me completely by surprise. I said a lightning quick prayer for the Lord's guidance. I carefully responded that believing that God is who He says He is and does what He says He will do makes faith easy.

Again a long pause. I asked the gentleman if he had ever done any study of faith. He answered by saying that he had studied Christianity, both Old and New Testament, Buddhism and Hinduism, and had reached the conclusion that he could still do good things for people outside of having any kind of religious faith. He cited Mother Theresa's diaries where he read that she admitted to struggling with her faith at times, but was still able to do good works.

I asked the man if simply doing good acts, aside from faith and God's love compelling them, would make a difference inside the giver. As he was pondering how to answer that question, the attorney with whom he had an appointment came to the front and gathered the gentleman for their meeting. We thanked each other for the conversation we had just had, but were unable to finish it.

By the time the receptionist returned from lunch and I headed back to my desk, they were still in their meeting and I never saw the gentleman again.

I wonder if that man has since thought about the answer he would have given to that last question as much as I have.

Each of us can do good works all day long, but this lesson's passage makes clear that without faith it is impossible to please God. I wonder how many people – familiar strangers – that we pass each and every day have the same belief system as the man in the earlier conversation.

Take a moment to write out our memory verses for this month – Hebrews 11:1 & 6:
In this third lesson, we are studying Hebrews 11:6a, which states, <i>And without faith it is impossible to please God</i> . As Christians, how do we please God? I must admit that this question caused me to pause for though Scripture records in Hebrews 11:5 that Enoch pleased God and was commended for it.
But what did he do? In Genesis 5:22 we see that Enoch walked with God. In the original language pleased in Hebrews 11:6a and walked in Genesis 5:22 are the same word. So I would suggest that there are three aspects to a life that pleases God.
1) Walk with God.
Walking with God denotes a divine relationship of one who is attentive to what God has to say and teach Let's take a moment to read through and take down some notes regarding some famous walks with God from Scripture:
Luke 24:13-32
Genesis 3:8-9
Acts 9:3-6

Noah and Abraham had great faith and were used greatly by God. They walked with God, listened to His guidance, and oftentimes obeyed what God called them to do. Regardless of whether or not they could see the result themselves, they walked with God and paid attention.

It is also important to walk with others in faith. A strong support system of believers proves crucial to our own walk of faith. When we are down or struggling through a certain circumstance, God uses the faithful around us to encourage us, lift us up, and love on us in His name.
Read and record the following examples:
Exodus 17:12
Mark 2:3-5
What does Ecclesiastes 2:26 tell us God promises to those who please Him?
How does that verse speak to you today?
2) Meditate on God.
We also see over and over in Scripture that those who meditate on God please Him. Psalm 104:34 says, May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the LORD.
What do the following passages reveal that we should specifically meditate on? Psalm 1:2
Psalm 119:48
Psalm 143:5

Philippians 4:8 _____

3) Live a file of God 8 love, peace and	3)	's love, peace and j	ov
---	----	----------------------	----

At various times in my life, I've been surprised to discover that certain people claimed to be Christians. Why? Their lives did not reflect it. I don't know about you, but grumpy, joyless, gossiping and complaining individuals do not scream, "I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart" to me.

What does Romans 14:17-18 tell us?

More than anything else, loving others with His everlasting love pleases God. The Great Commandment states that loud and clear (Matthew 22:36-39).

What does 2 John 1:5-6 tell us?

What other things please God? I	Let's make a list from Scriptu	ıre:
---------------------------------	--------------------------------	------

• Righteousness — Proverbs 15:9
• Pure thoughts — Proverbs 15:26
• Peace — 1 Timothy 2:1-4
Let's review our Bible memory verse for our study. Write out Hebrews 11:1 & 6 once more:

Having faith in God pleases Him. Walking with God pleases Him. Put those two ingredients together and we abide in Him. Abiding in Christ means to be continually near or to be in constant residence. God wants our constant residence in His Word. If we believe God is who He says He is and will do all He says He will do, faith is not hard. That doesn't mean we won't face challenging times, but He has given us a strong support system of believers to help us get through those times.

He has also given us His Son. What more do we need?

Close with prayer:

Father, I long to abide with You. To walk with You and to talk with You and grow in faith and love. Help me discover new ways to please You as we walk together. In Jesus' name, Amen. ₱

Lesson Four

Take a moment to write out Hebrews 11:1 & 6:

Believing Is Seeing

Because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him (Hebrews 11:6b).

One of my favorite verses in all of Scripture is Psalm 18:25a, which tells us, *To the faithful you show your-self faithful*. This verse reminds us that God constantly watches over and guides us in keeping the faith (2 Timothy 4:7).

As we run the earthly race, remain faithful to God and His calling, and earnestly seek Him. God will be faithful to the promises He has given us. Promises to give us hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11), to reward those who earnestly seek Him, and to never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). Hallelujah!

Because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Several key points surface in this verse.
First, we see that we must come to God in faith. We see numerous times in Scripture where Jesus encourages us to "come to me."
Look up and record these relevant passages:
Matthew 4:19
Matthew 11:28

A n
other key point is "believe that he exists." I believe we are called to much more than simply believing God exists. Although that is a starting point, we are told in Scripture that even the demons know that He exists (James 2:19). We are called to believe that He is who He says He is and will do all that He says He will do.
In at least half a dozen other Biblical translations, "exists" in this verse is rendered He is. What does John 6:29 tell us?
Finally, the words diligently seek are key words here. In the original Greek, these words mean to seek ou God. When we seek out something, we have an intent in mind. A specific focus. That is the reference here.
As Christians, we focus on Jesus and strive through the power of the Holy Spirit to live the life that He' called us to live in a God-pleasing manner. Scripture tells us to not only ask and seek , but knock .
What does Matthew 7:7 tell us?
What confidence does that give to you today?
When we believe God through faith, there are four specific results (among others):
1) We obey even when we do not understand.
Abraham, our Patriarch, provides a perfect example. Abraham obeyed even when he did not know how God's will would be accomplished. Both Abraham and Sarah were too old to have children. Yet they both believe that God would do the miracle. See Romans 4:13-25.
Unbelief asks, "How can this be?" What does Luke 1:18-20 tell us?

Faith asks, "How will this be?" What does Luke 1:34-37 tell us?
Abraham did not stand alone. None of the Patriarchs saw the complete fulfillment of God's promises, but
they saw from afar what God was doing.
Dr. George Morrison, a Scottish preacher, once said, "The important thing is not what we live in, but what we look for." Very wise words.
These men and women lived in tents, but they knew a heavenly city awaited them. God always fulfills His promises to His believing people, either immediately or ultimately. Faith looks to the future, for that is where the greatest rewards are found.
2) We give when we do not have it to give.
2 Corinthians 8:2-4
3) We keep going even when we don't feel like it.
James 1:12
4) We pray and thank God before we receive the answer.
Matthew 15:36-38
Mark 11:24

A species of Eucalyptus tree exists in southwestern Australia called the Jarrah tree. I stumbled upon the reference to this unusual tree during a devotion. Being a lover of nature and science, I immediately began searching the internet for information about this unfamiliar tree. When I read the characteristics of this amazing tree, I had to retrieve my jaw from the carpet.

The characteristics of the Jarrah tree have an amazing resemblance to the characteristics of a strong, mature Christian faith. See if you can pick out some of the parallels from this brief Jarrah tree description:

The Jarrah tree has long, straight trunks of beautifully grained termite-resistant timber making it valuable for high quality usage. When young and fresh, Jarrah is very susceptible to dieback from root rot, but when seasoned it becomes so hard that conventional wood-working tools are useless. Jarrahs have a lignotuber, a large underground swelling which stores carbohydrates, which allows young trees to re-grow after a fire. Because they are deep rooted, Jarrahs are drought-resistant and able to draw water from great depths during dry periods. This tree produces fruit and flowers, which are used to make honey.

After reading that story, what parallels to a Christian's faith were you able to draw?

Take a moment to reflect on part of Martin Luther's amazing definition of faith:

"Faith is God's work in us, that changes us and gives new birth from God (John 1:13). It changes our hearts, our spirits, our thoughts and all our powers. It brings the Holy Spirit with it. Yes, it is a living, creative, active and powerful thing, this faith. Faith cannot help doing good works constantly. It doesn't stop to ask if good works ought to be done, but before anyone asks, it already has done them and continues to do them without ceasing. Faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace, so certain of God's favor that it would risk death a thousand times in trusting it. Such confidence and knowledge of God's grace makes you happy, joyful and bold in your relationship to God and all creatures. The Holy Spirit makes this happen through faith."

One final time, write our Bible memory verses for our study—Hebrews 11:1 & 6. Can you do it from
memory? Here are the first few words:
Now faith is

God asks us a very important question in Matthew 9:28. Do you believe? Faith in God is everything. It gives us the eyes to see Jesus in those around us. It provides the hope of glory that is ours in Christ Jesus. It gives us abundant, abiding life in Him.

If you haven't taken the **no holds barred** leap of faith, now's the time. Jesus is waiting for you on the water.

Take some time to reflect on which part of this study particularly spoke to you during these past four lessons.

Close with prayer:

Prather, You have taken me on quite a journey of faith over these past four lessons. You have invited me to dive in and place my faith in You, my eyes locked on Yours, hearing Your encouragement in my ears as You lead and guide me. Father, I need Your help with this leap. Sometimes the view is scary, but my hope is in You. You promise to renew my strength, so that I can run and not grow weary. Remind me every day of that promise, Father. I need You more than my next breath. In Jesus' name, Amen. ₱



Prayers

REFERENCES: FOR FURTHER READING

Achtemeier, Paul J., Harper & Row Publishers, Harper's Bible Dictionary, Logos Research Systems, 2007.

Bible Exposition Commentary, Logos Research Systems, 2007.

Bimson, John J., ed. Baker Encyclopedia of Bible Places. Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 1995; www.ancientsandals.com.

Coffman, James Burton, "Commentary on Hebrews 11", <u>Coffman Commentaries on the Old and New Testament</u>, http://www.searchgodsword.org/com, Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, Texas, USA, 1983-1999.

Henry, Matthew, "Complete Commentary on Hebrews 11", <u>Matthew Henry Complete Commentary on the Whole Bible</u>, http://www.searchgodsword.org/com/mhc-com.

J.W. McGarvey and Philip Y. Pendleton, "Commentary on Hebrews 11", <u>The Fourfold Gospel</u>, http://www.searchgodsword.org/com, Standard Publishing Company, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1914.

Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Bible Commentary, e-Word Today electronic version, L. Hodgett, 1995.

"LeapofFaith," JosephStowell, Jan. 10, 2008, http://www.rbc.org/biblestudy/strength_for_the_journey/daily/59886.

NIV Study Bible, Zondervan Publishing House, 1995, pp. 1872.

Rousseau, John J. and Rami Arav. <u>Jesus and His World: An Archaeological and Cultural Dictionary</u>. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995; www.ancientsandals.com.

Scott, Thomas, "Hebrews 11", The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge, Blue Letter Bible, 1836.

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, Hendrickson Publishers, Seventh Printing, 2005.

The Archeological Study Bible, New International Version, Zondervan Publishing House, 2005.

The English-Greek Reverse Interlinear New Testament, English Standard Version, Crossway Books, 2006.

The Strongest Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, 21st Century Edition, Zondervan Publishing House, 2001.

Thompson Chain Reference Bible: New International Version, Indianapolis, IN: B. B., Kirkbride Bible Co., Inc., 1990.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996.

When God Whispers Your Name, Max Lucado, Word Publishing, 1994.

Wiersbe's Outline of the New Testament, Logos Research Systems, 2007. Achtemeier, Paul J., Harper & Row Publishers, <u>Harper's Bible Dictionary</u>, Logos Research Systems, 2007.

Bible Exposition Commentary, Logos Research Systems, 2007.

Bimson, John J., ed. Baker Encyclopedia of Bible Places. Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 1995; www.ancientsandals.com.

Coffman, James Burton, "Commentary on Hebrews 11", <u>Coffman Commentaries on the Old and New Testament</u>, http://www.searchgodsword.org/com, Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, Texas, USA, 1983-1999.

Henry, Matthew, "Complete Commentary on Hebrews 11", <u>Matthew Henry Complete Commentary on the Whole Bible</u>, http://www.searchgodsword.org/com/mhc-com.

J.W. McGarvey and Philip Y. Pendleton, "Commentary on Hebrews 11", The Fourfold Gospel, http://www.searchgodsword.org/com,

Standard Publishing Company, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1914.

Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Bible Commentary, e-Word Today electronic version, L. Hodgett, 1995.

"LeapofFaith," JosephStowell, Jan. 10, 2008, http://www.rbc.org/biblestudy/strength for the journey/daily/59886.

NIV Study Bible, Zondervan Publishing House, 1995, pp. 1872.

Rousseau, John J. and Rami Arav. <u>Jesus and His World: An Archaeological and Cultural Dictionary</u>. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995; www.ancientsandals.com.

Scott, Thomas, "Hebrews 11", The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge, Blue Letter Bible, 1836.

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, Hendrickson Publishers, Seventh Printing, 2005.

The Archeological Study Bible, New International Version, Zondervan Publishing House, 2005.

The English-Greek Reverse Interlinear New Testament, English Standard Version, Crossway Books, 2006.

Achtemeier, Paul J., Harper & Row Publishers, Harper's Bible Dictionary, Logos Research Systems, 2007.

Bible Exposition Commentary, Logos Research Systems, 2007.

Bimson, John J., ed. Baker Encyclopedia of Bible Places. Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 1995; www.ancientsandals.com.

Coffman, James Burton, "Commentary on Hebrews 11", <u>Coffman Commentaries on the Old and New Testament</u>, http://www.searchgodsword.org/com, Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, Texas, USA, 1983-1999.

Henry, Matthew, "Complete Commentary on Hebrews 11", <u>Matthew Henry Complete Commentary on the Whole Bible</u>, http://www.searchgodsword.org/com/mhc-com.

J.W. McGarvey and Philip Y. Pendleton, "Commentary on Hebrews 11", <u>The Fourfold Gospel</u>, http://www.searchgodsword.org/com, Standard Publishing Company, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1914.

Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Bible Commentary, e-Word Today electronic version, L. Hodgett, 1995.

"LeapofFaith," JosephStowell, Jan. 10, 2008, http://www.rbc.org/biblestudy/strength for the journey/daily/59886.

NIV Study Bible, Zondervan Publishing House, 1995, pp. 1872.

Rousseau, John J. and Rami Arav. <u>Jesus and His World: An Archaeological and Cultural Dictionary</u>. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995; www.ancientsandals.com.

Scott, Thomas, "Hebrews 11", The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge, Blue Letter Bible, 1836.

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, Hendrickson Publishers, Seventh Printing, 2005.

The Archeological Study Bible, New International Version, Zondervan Publishing House, 2005.

The English-Greek Reverse Interlinear New Testament, English Standard Version, Crossway Books, 2006.

The Strongest Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, 21st Century Edition, Zondervan Publishing House, 2001.

Thompson Chain Reference Bible: New International Version, Indianapolis, IN: B. B., Kirkbride Bible Co., Inc., 1990.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996.

When God Whispers Your Name, Max Lucado, Word Publishing, 1994.

Wiersbe's Outline of the New Testament, Logos Research Systems, 2007. Achtemeier, Paul J., Harper & Row Publishers, Harper's Bible

Dictionary, Logos Research Systems, 2007.

Bible Exposition Commentary, Logos Research Systems, 2007.

Bimson, John J., ed. Baker Encyclopedia of Bible Places. Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 1995; www.ancientsandals.com.

Coffman, James Burton, "Commentary on Hebrews 11", <u>Coffman Commentaries on the Old and New Testament</u>, http://www.searchgodsword.org/com, Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, Texas, USA, 1983-1999.

Henry, Matthew, "Complete Commentary on Hebrews 11", <u>Matthew Henry Complete Commentary on the Whole Bible</u>, http://www.searchgodsword.org/com/mhc-com.

J.W. McGarvey and Philip Y. Pendleton, "Commentary on Hebrews 11", <u>The Fourfold Gospel</u>, http://www.searchgodsword.org/com, Standard Publishing Company, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1914.

Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Bible Commentary, e-Word Today electronic version, L. Hodgett, 1995.

"LeapofFaith," JosephStowell, Jan. 10, 2008, http://www.rbc.org/biblestudy/strength for the journey/daily/59886.

NIV Study Bible, Zondervan Publishing House, 1995, pp. 1872.

Rousseau, John J. and Rami Arav. <u>Jesus and His World: An Archaeological and Cultural Dictionary</u>. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995; www.ancientsandals.com.

Scott, Thomas, "Hebrews 11", The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge, Blue Letter Bible, 1836.

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, Hendrickson Publishers, Seventh Printing, 2005.

The Archeological Study Bible, New International Version, Zondervan Publishing House, 2005.

The English-Greek Reverse Interlinear New Testament, English Standard Version, Crossway Books, 2006.

About the Author

Donna Pyle



An engaging speaker, author, Bible teacher and worship leader, Donna has a passion for studying and teaching God's Word. She has authored 18 Bible studies, several Bible studies published in the *Lutheran Women's Quarterly*, numerous devotions, and magazine articles. Donna's DVD-based Bible study series, *Your Strong Suit*, launched nationwide through LWML in November 2011. Her new full-length, small-group based Bible study, *The God of All Comfort*, is available from Concordia Publishing House. Her next DVD-based Bible study series for the LWML, *Overflowing Abundance*, is scheduled for release at the Pittsburgh LWML Convention.

Donna attends Salem Lutheran Church in Tomball, Texas, where she loves serving in the worship ministry. She is passionate about partnering with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League in mission work and providing new avenues for women to get into God's hydrating Word.



Copyright ©2013 Lutheran Women's Missionary League P.O. Box 411993 St. Louis, MO 63141-1993

> 800-252-LWML (5965) Fax: 314-268-1532

> Email: lwml@lwml.org
> Website: www.lwml.org