

Holding fast in a sea of change



Studies in the book of Hebrews

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Hebrews

10:26-39 & 11:1-40

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My definition of faith: _____

Act in
accordance with that
m. belief

of where I'm
before me is to put my tools up.
and know that He is working 19 miles up
then may cross over on dry land to
"Follow Me." June

My definition of faith:

A complete Trust and confidence in something

I have thought deeply about, questioned,
analyzed and accepted as True

My definition of faith:

FAITH

Believing and trusting in something even when
situations ~~make~~ or things try to come against that
belief. It's ~~something~~ Your faith can grow stronger
and be Weakness. It's a daily decision to have Faith
in something & deeper than faith.

Faithfulness

Expectation

Foundation

Now faith is confidence in what we hope

for and assurance about what we do not see. ²This is what the ancients were commended for. -Hebrews 11:1



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In the case of Hebrews 11, we can define faith as the action of ordinary people based on confidence in God's word and promises. The result has various earthly outcomes but whatever the result, we can be sure of God's commendation and future reward.



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Avoid these pitfalls/misconceptions:

1. It is a mistake to believe that because you can not see God that your faith is “blind” (“blind”, meaning that there is no rational for it). -Hebrews 11:3



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the center of the MilkyWay. Hubble Space Telescope, the Spitzer Space Telescope, and the Chandra X-ray Observatory —collaboration . Xray pics up the Heat from the stars illuminates the gas.

<http://hubblesite.org/newscenter/archive/releases/2009/30/image/a/>

Today there are more than 200 known parameters necessary for a planet to support life—every single one of which must be perfectly met, or the whole thing falls apart. Without a massive planet like Jupiter nearby, whose gravity will draw away asteroids, a thousand times as many would hit Earth's surface. The odds against life in the universe are simply astonishing.



Eric Metaxas

Yet here we are, not only existing, but talking about existing. What can account for it? Can every one of those many parameters have been perfect by accident? **At what point is it fair to admit that science suggests that we cannot be the result of random forces?** Doesn't assuming that an intelligence created these perfect conditions require far less faith than believing that a life-sustaining Earth *just happened* to beat the inconceivable odds to come into being?



Eric Metaxas



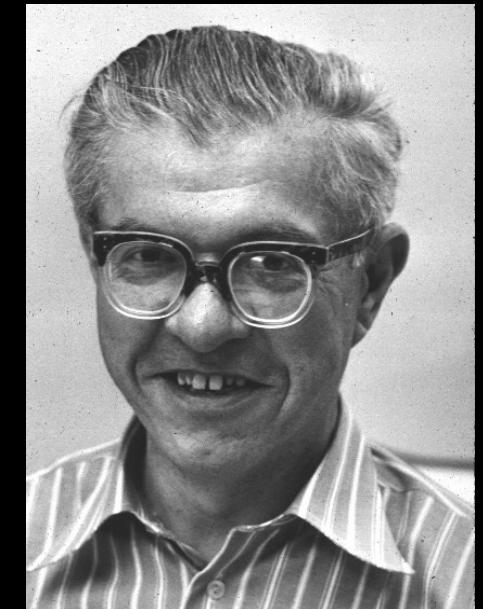
“Much less than one chance in a million trillion exists that even one such planet would occur anywhere in the universe.”

-Hugh Ross



“Astronomy leads us to a universe with the very delicate balance needed to provide exactly the conditions required to permit life and one which has an underlying, one might say supernatural plan.” -Arno Penzias (Nobel laureate)

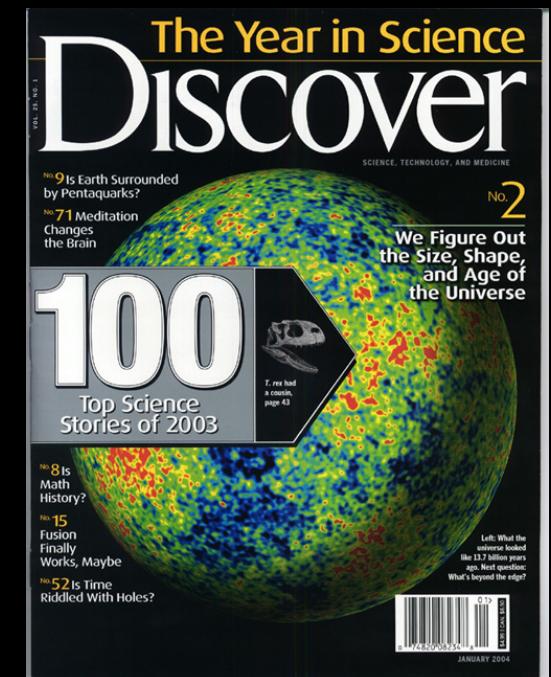
Fred Hoyle, the astronomer who coined the term “big bang,” said that his atheism was “greatly shaken” at these developments. He later wrote that “***a common-sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a super-intellect has monkeyed with the physics, as well as with chemistry and biology*** The numbers one calculates from the facts seem to me so overwhelming as to put this conclusion almost beyond question.”



The Universe is
unlikely. Very *unlikely*.

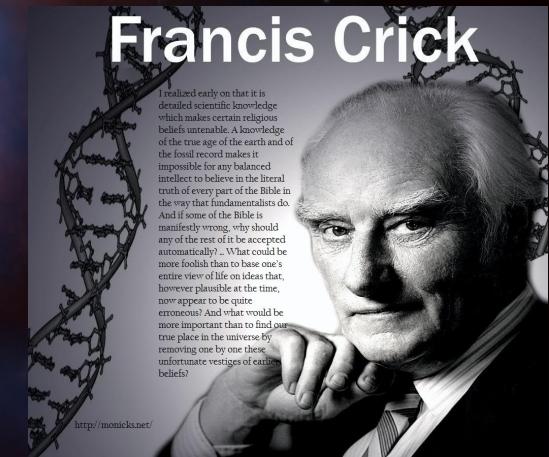
Deeply, shockingly
unlikely. "It's quite
fantastic,"

—Martin Rees, Britain's Astronomer Royal



<http://discovermagazine.com/2000/nov/cover/>

“An honest man, armed with all the knowledge available to us now, could only state that in some sense, the origin of life appears at the moment to be almost a miracle, so many are the conditions which would have had to have been satisfied to get it going.”



Francis Harry Compton Crick, OM, FRS was an English molecular biologist, biophysicist, and neuroscientist, most noted for being a co-discoverer of the structure of the DNA molecule in 1953 with James Watson.



Although accounting for just one fourth-thousandth of an adult's weight, it is the medium which processes some 80% of the information received by its owner from the outside world. The tiny retina contains about 130 million rod-shaped cells, which detect light intensity and transmit impulses to the visual cortex of the brain by means of some one million nerve fibres, while nearly six million cone-shaped cells do the same job, but respond specifically to color variation. The eyes can handle 500,000 messages simultaneously, and are kept clear by ducts producing just the right amount of fluid with which the lids clean both eyes simultaneously in one five-thousandth of a second.



God's
Creation
God's creation

Avoid these pitfalls/misconceptions:

2. Having faith in God doesn't mean that you won't have questions about life. (*Abraham Genesis 15*)

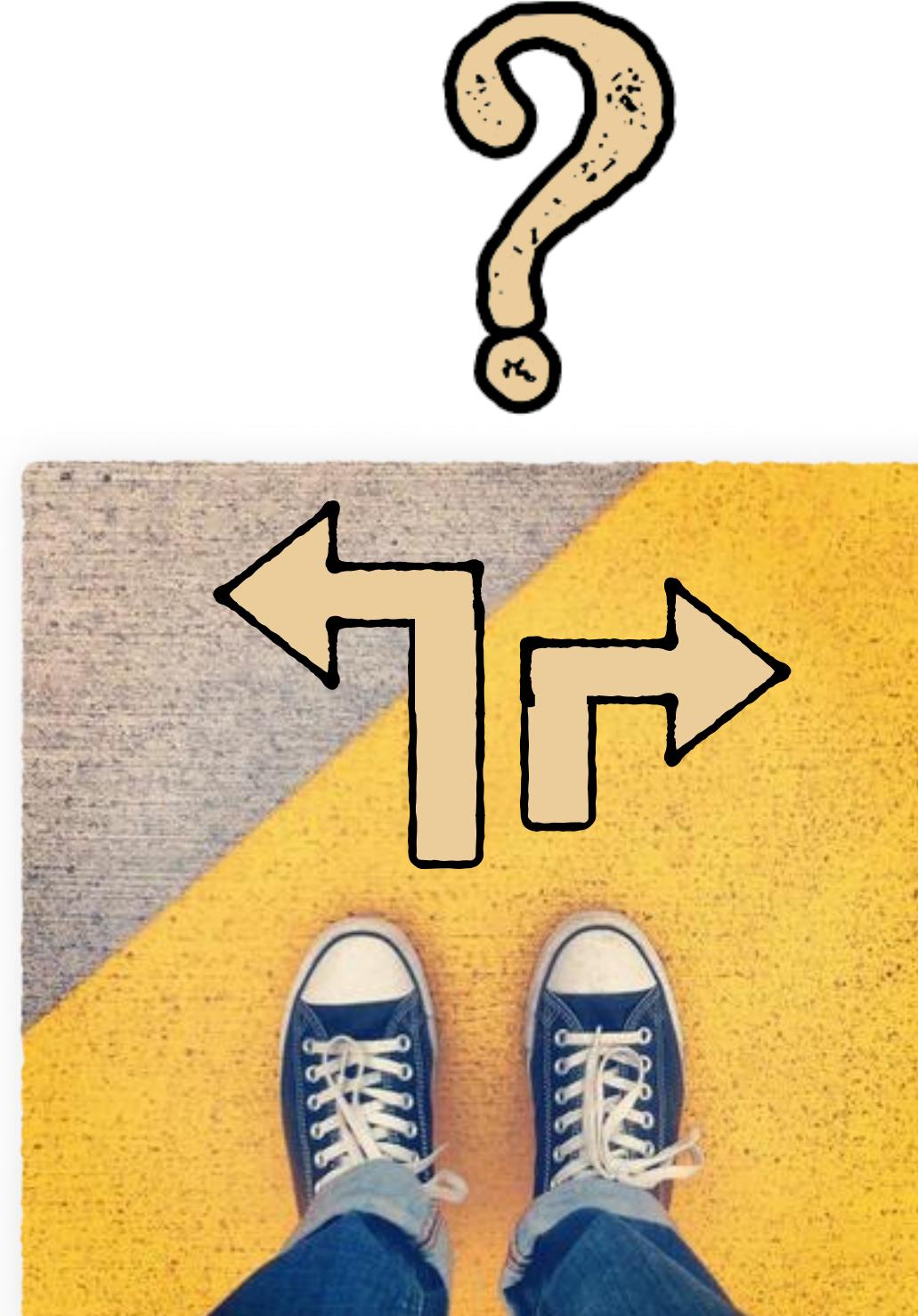
-*Hebrews 11:8-19 & Mark 9:24*



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Doubt

God is not disturbed by our doubts & questions. In fact being honest about our doubts & questions allows us to respond with genuine faith(fulness).



Avoid these pitfalls/misconceptions:

3. Not all of these great examples
got what they wanted in their
lifetime! -Hebrews 11:10;24-30;39



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Avoid these pitfalls/misconceptions:

4. Being a faithful person doesn't mean that you won't have struggles, failures or a checkered past.

—Hebrews 11:31



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Avoid these pitfalls/misconceptions:

5. Thinking that genuine faith is demonstrated primarily by the presence of health and wealth instead of obedience.

-Hebrews 11:6 and 35-38



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REFLECT:

1. Is there EVIDENCE

that I have faith in God?



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RESPOND:

1. If you have put your faith in something other than God for your true peace and ultimate hope for the future, *you can respond in faith* by thanking God for the forgiveness he offered you through Jesus' death on the cross and commit yourself to following Him.

I will share this great news with:



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RESPOND:

2. If you've already put your trust in the forgiveness God secured for you in Jesus' death and find yourself hungry to know God better **COMMIT** yourself to study and meet with others who will help you grow.

This week I'm going to meet or study with: _____



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RESPOND:

3. Take an honest inventory of your life.

Identify one area that you know often gets in the way of you being the person God made you to be. SHARE it with someone and ask them to keep you accountable.

I will share it with: _____



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