

DOUBT, DOUBTED, DOUBTETH, DOUBTFUL, DOUBTING, DOUBTS

The serpent tempted Eve by trying to convince her to **doubt** what God had said.

- **Genesis 3:4-5:** "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

When Jacob told Isaac that he was Esau, one of the reasons Isaac **doubted** this was because not enough time had passed since Isaac sent Esau out to hunt.

- **Genesis 27:20:** "And Isaac said unto his son, How is it that thou hast found it so quickly, my son? And he said, Because the LORD thy God brought it to me."

When Jacob brought the savory meat to Isaac, his father **doubted** that the person he was talking to was Esau.

- **Genesis 27:21:** "And Isaac said unto Jacob, Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou be my very son Esau or not."

Although Moses was denied entry into Canaan because he didn't believe that God could provide water from a rock by speaking to it, that wasn't the first time he **doubted** God. Moses also didn't believe that God could provide meat for the entire nation of Israel for a whole month.

- **Numbers 11:21-22:** "And Moses said, The people, among whom I am, are six hundred thousand footmen; and thou hast said, I will give them flesh, that they may eat a whole month. Shall the flocks and the herds be slain for them, to suffice them? or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to suffice them?"

Moses told the Israelites that if they didn't obey the voice of God then their life would be in **doubt**. (In other words, they would be risking death.)

- **Deuteronomy 28:15, 66:** "But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: ... And **thy life shall hang in doubt** before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life:"

When Samson told Delilah that he would become weak if he was tied with seven green vines, she tied him up and had people lying in wait to attack him. Even after Delilah proved beyond a **doubt** that she was trying to destroy him, Samson remained with her. (That proved to be a terrible decision.)

- **Judges 16:7-9:** "And Samson said unto her, If they bind me with seven green withs that were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man. Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven green withs which had not been dried, and she bound him with them. Now there were men lying in wait, abiding with her in the chamber. And she said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he brake the withs, as a thread of tow

is broken when it toucheth the fire. So his strength was not known."

The five spies from the tribe of Dan believed that the Levite had the ability to inquire of the Lord. (It's highly **doubtful** that was true, since the reason he was at Micah's house was to help the family worship an idol they had made.)

- **Judges 18:4-5:** "And he said unto them, Thus and thus dealeth Micah with me, and hath hired me, and I am his priest. And they said unto him, Ask counsel, we pray thee, of God, that we may know whether our way which we go shall be prosperous."

When the lepers reported that the Syrian camp was empty, the king of Israel didn't **doubt** it. (However, he did believe that it was a trap.)

- **2 Kings 7:12:** "And the king arose in the night, and said unto his servants, I will now shew you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we be hungry; therefore are they gone out of the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, When they come out of the city, we shall catch them alive, and get into the city."

We must not cast **doubt** on the word of God. (When Elisha said that the famine in the city would end the next day and a man told him he was wrong, Elisha said he would see it but not partake of it. Th reason he didn't partake of it was because he was tramped to death.)

- **2 Kings 7:17:** "And the king appointed the lord on whose hand he leaned to have the charge of the gate: and the

people trode upon him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God had said, who spake when the king came down to him."

None of Job's friends were willing to give him the benefit of the **doubt**, or considered that perhaps he was telling the truth. Instead they all assumed Job was a liar who deserved everything that happened to him. (They actually told him he was such an evil person that he *deserved* to have all his children killed in one day.)

- **Job 11:5-6:** "But oh that God would speak, and open his lips against thee; And that he would shew thee the secrets of wisdom, that they are double to that which is! Know therefore that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth."

Job said that God wasn't going to stretch out his hand to the grave. (It seems there were times when Job **doubted** that there would be a resurrection. Yet there were other times when he said that he *did* believe it.)

- **Job 30:23-24:** "For I know that thou wilt bring me to death, and to the house appointed for all living. Howbeit he will not stretch out his hand to the grave, though they cry in his destruction."

One of the ways the wicked torment the righteous is by casting **doubt** on God.

- **Psalms 42:3:** "My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?"
- **Psalms 42:10:** "As with a sword in my bones, mine

enemies reproach me; while they say daily unto me,
Where is thy God?"

- **Psalm 78:19:** "Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?"

God heard the Israelites cast **doubt** upon His ability to provide for them when they were in the wilderness. (It angers God when we doubt Him.)

- **Psalm 78:20-21:** "Behold, he smote the rock, that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed; can he give bread also? can he provide flesh for his people? Therefore the LORD heard this, and was wroth: so a fire was kindled against Jacob, and anger also came up against Israel;"

We should wholly trust the Word of God. Instead of **doubting** it, we should believe it and live by it.

- **Proverbs 30:5:** "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him."

Jeremiah had **doubts** about whether God would keep His promise to save him. (Yet God was faithful, in spite of Jeremiah's doubts.)

- **Jeremiah 15:18:** "Why is my pain perpetual, and my wound incurable, which refuseth to be healed? wilt thou be altogether unto me as a liar, and as waters that fail?"

God commanded Jeremiah to repent of his **doubts** so that he could be His faithful prophet.

- **Jeremiah 15:19:** "Therefore thus saith the LORD, If thou return, then will I bring thee again, and thou shalt stand before me: and if thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth: let them return unto thee; but return not thou unto them."

The queen told Belshazzar that Daniel could dissolve **doubts**.

- **Daniel 5:12:** "Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation."

Belshazzar told Daniel that he had heard that Daniel could dissolve **doubts**.

- **Daniel 5:16:** "And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom."

The sailors didn't **doubt** that Jonah's God was real and powerful.

- **Jonah 1:10:** "Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him. Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them."

The Jews of Zechariah's time found it hard to believe that in the future Jerusalem would be a safe place to live and children would play in its streets. They **doubted** God's promise and lacked faith.

- **Zechariah 8:4-6:** "Thus saith the Lord of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the LORD of hosts."

When John the Baptist had **doubts** about whether Jesus was the Messiah, he sent two of his disciples to ask Him.

- **Matthew 11:2-3:** "Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?"
- **Luke 7:19:** "And John calling unto him two of his disciples sent them to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?"

Jesus explained to the Pharisees why it wasn't wrong to heal on the Sabbath. He then proved it beyond a **doubt** by using God's power to heal someone on the Sabbath.

- **Matthew 12:12-13:** "How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days. Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other."

There were times when Jesus rebuked Peter for **doubting** Him.

- **Matthew 14:31:** "And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"

Jesus told His disciples that if they had faith and didn't **doubt**, they would be able to do much greater miracles than cursing a fig tree.

- **Matthew 21:21:** "Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done."

There was no **doubt** that the tomb of Jesus was empty. Even the enemies of Jesus didn't dispute this fact. (Since everyone agreed the tomb was empty, the religious leaders bribed the guards to lie about *why* the tomb was empty.)

- **Matthew 28:13:** "Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept."

Some of the disciples of Jesus **doubted** that He rose from the dead. (This was Thomas, who refused to believe until he saw Jesus with His own eyes.)

- **Matthew 28:17:** "And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted."

The father of the demon-possessed son **doubted** that Jesus could help.

- **Mark 9:22:** "And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us."

God wants us to pray with faith, not with **doubt**.

- **Mark 11:23:** "For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."

God wants us to know about the gospel with certainty. He doesn't want us to have **doubts** about it.

- **Luke 1:4:** "That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed."

When people saw Jesus raise a dead person back to life, no one **doubted** that it was a genuine miracle.

- **Luke 7:15-16:** "And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother. And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people."

We must not be **doubtful** about where God will provide us with the necessities we need in order to live. (God knows what we need, and He will provide.)

- **Luke 12:29-30:** "And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things."

Nathanael **doubted** that anything good could come out of Nazareth.

- **John 1:46:** "And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see."

No one **doubted** that Jesus was the one who healed the man who had been born blind. Everyone knew it was a genuine miracle and that Jesus was the one who had done it. (Since they couldn't deny the miracle, they instead tried to claim that Jesus wasn't from God.)

- **John 9:17, 29:** "They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet. ... We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is."

When the Jews who came to Jerusalem for Pentecost heard the disciples speaking in their own native languages, they were filled with **doubt**.

- **Acts 2:7-8, 12:** "And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? ... And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What

meaneth this?"

When the men who Cornelius sent were at the gate of the house of Simon the tanner asking for Peter, the Holy Spirit commanded Peter to not have **doubts** about going with them.

- **Acts 10:19-20:** "While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them."

The church should accept Christians who are weak in the faith as long as they don't cast **doubt** on it or dispute it.

- **Romans 14:1:** "Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations."

We must not do anything that we have **doubts** about. (If we believe that what we're doing might be a sin but we do it anyway, we're committing a sin because we're not acting on faith.)

- **Romans 14:23:** "And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

Paul had confidence in the Corinthian church. In spite of their many problems, he didn't have **doubts** about them.

- **2 Corinthians 7:16:** "I rejoice therefore that I have confidence in you in all things."

The reason Paul wanted to visit the Galatian church was because he **doubted** their salvation.

- **Galatians 4:20:** "I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you."

Christians should pray without **doubting**.

- **1 Timothy 2:8:** "I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."

When people **doubt** God's promises, their unbelief doesn't invalidate those promises. God will be faithful even when we're not.

- **2 Timothy 2:13:** "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself."

We must choose to have faith in God instead of **doubting** Him.

- **2 Timothy 2:22:** "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

Paul believed that the Scriptures were faithful and could be trusted. He never cast any **doubt** on them.

- **2 Timothy 3:15:** "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

We should have confidence in our salvation. There's no need for us to have any **doubts**. God will surely deliver us and preserve us (just as He promised).

- **2 Timothy 4:18:** "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

The hope that we have in Christ is an anchor for our soul. It keeps us from drifting off into **doubt** and despair.

- **Hebrews 6:19:** "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;"

It's wrong to **doubt** our salvation. Jesus has given us full assurance of our salvation because it's wholly accomplished by His sacrifice on the cross. Our salvation and doesn't depend on our works in any way! Instead it depends on something that Jesus has *already finished*.

- **Hebrews 10:22:** "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water."

Being double minded and full of **doubt** isn't a virtue. Instead it's a sign of instability.

- **James 1:6-8:** "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

James said that if anyone in the church is sick, they should call for the elders of the church. The elders would pray over him and anoint him with oil, and he would surely be healed. (These instructions seem to date from a time when the gift of healing was still present, since there was absolutely no **doubt** the person would be cured of his illness.)

- **James 5:14-15:** "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

It's possible for Christians to find themselves faced with **doubts** even though they're genuinely saved. Just because we're troubled doesn't mean our doubts are valid.

- **1 John 3:19-20:** "And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things."

If we find ourselves in **doubt** about our salvation, we can fight those doubts by reading 1 John and seeing the *many* differences between those who are saved and those who are not. We can look at the evidence of our life as proof that we're saved, and that our doubts are groundless.

- **1 John 3:19:** "And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him."

It's possible to have full assurance of our salvation. We don't have to live in **doubt**.

- **1 John 5:13:** "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

We can have full assurance that we're of God. We don't have to live in **doubt**.

- **1 John 5:19:** "And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness."

John praised those who deserved to be praised and condemned those who deserved to be condemned. He did both of those things *by name*. He left no **doubt** about who he was talking about or what those individuals had done.

- **3 John 1:9, 12:** "I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. ... Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true."