

PROCESSING DOUBT

THE WEEK OF JANUARY 8, 2023

I DOUBT IT-

AND I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE
CONVERSATION GUIDE

TAKE-AWAYS

- What we should believe:
 - About the Bible: (2 Timothy 3:16-17) I believe the Bible is God's Word. It is true and authoritative and I am committed to living according to its principles and commands.
- What we should become:
 - Self-Control: (Ephesians 4:22-24) My thoughts, emotions and actions are brought under control through the power of the Spirit as I pursue a holy, God-honoring life.

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- How we should behave:
 - I study God's Word: (2 Timothy 2:15) I consistently study the Bible to know God, the truth and find direction for my daily life.

INTRO QUESTIONS

- Do you know someone who has struggled in their faith?
- Have you ever or are you now experiencing doubt about your faith? Be honest!
 - How have you tackled those moments of doubt?
- Is doubt a sin? Is it bad?
 - What is the best approach to doubt- ignoring it or investigating it?
- How many "doubters" can you name in the Bible?

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BIBLE STUDY

Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

James 1:5–8

Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God—who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly—and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith without doubting. For the doubter is like the surging sea, driven and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord, being double-minded and unstable in all his ways.

- What is wisdom? How are wisdom and faith connected?
- What should be our first step when we realize we lack wisdom?

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- Why does James connect wisdom and a lack of faith (or doubting)? How does he describe the doubter?
- How can our lack of faith become a cycle that perpetuates our doubts?
- How does our lack of solid faith cut us off from the blessings of the Lord?

Matthew 11:1-11

When Jesus had finished giving instructions to his twelve disciples, he moved on from there to teach and preach in their towns. Now when John heard in prison what the Christ was doing, he sent a message through his disciples and asked him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

Jesus replied to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear,

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the dead are raised, and the poor are told the good news, and blessed is the one who isn't offended by me."

*As these men were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothes? See, those who wear soft clothes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:
See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way before you.*

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one greater than John the Baptist has appeared, but the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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- What was John's response when he was doubting? Who did he turn to with his questions?
 - John had reacted to the presence of Jesus while in the womb! Why do you think he was questioning Jesus now?
- How did Jesus respond to John's questioning?
 - How did Jesus describe John after being questioned?
 - How did Jesus characterize John even while he was doubting?
- What would have happened if Eve had responded like John when she doubted God's commandment regarding the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil?
- What can we learn about Jesus and how He will respond to us if we bring our doubts to Him?

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Jude 1:20-25

But you, dear friends, as you build yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting expectantly for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ for eternal life. Have mercy on those who waver; save others by snatching them from the fire; have mercy on others but with fear, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

Now to him who is able to protect you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of his glory, without blemish and with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time, now and forever. Amen.

- What steps does this passage give to keep our faith strong and not stumble?

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- How are we to handle those we know that are struggling in their faith?

Romans 10:14-17

How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news. But not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, Lord, who has believed our message? So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ.

- What is our job as believers? How do we make sure others have the opportunity to believe?

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- How does this apply to friends and family that are doubting or struggling in their faith?
- How can we have “beautiful feet?”
- What should we do when we doubt? How do we find people to teach and exhort us while we struggle and fight to keep our faith?

Mark 9:17-29

Someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you. He has a spirit that makes him unable to speak. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive it out, but they couldn’t.

*He replied to them, “**You unbelieving generation, how long will I be with you? How long must I put up with you?**”*

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Bring him to me.” So they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, it immediately threw the boy into convulsions. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. “How long has this been happening to him?” Jesus asked his father.

“From childhood,” he said. “And many times it has thrown him into fire or water to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.

Jesus said to him, “If you can? Everything is possible for the one who believes.”

Immediately the father of the boy cried out, “I do believe; help my unbelief!”

When Jesus saw that a crowd was quickly gathering, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you: Come out of him and

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never enter him again."

Then it came out, shrieking and throwing him into terrible convulsions. The boy became like a corpse, so that many said, "He's dead." But Jesus, taking him by the hand, raised him, and he stood up.

After he had gone into the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

And he told them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer."

- How did the father deal with his doubts?
- What was Jesus response to the father's doubt?
- After Jesus healed the boy, the disciples questioned why they hadn't been able to drive out the evil spirit. What was Jesus's answer for them?

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- What is the connection between prayer and faith? (Remember the passages we looked at earlier).

NEXT STEPS

- Who did you commit to pray for during Season of Compassion? Remember the BLESS Strategy and continue to pray for them. Add anyone in your world you know is struggling with doubt.
- Check out the Processing Doubt group with Pastor David. Start January 11, 6:30pm. [Click here to sign up.](#)
- One of the best ways to strengthen and grow your faith is by faithfully reading His word- the Bible!
 - Create your own plan for daily Bible reading and implement it.
 - Join the Celebration family and read through the [book of Luke](#) during the Processing Doubt series.