

To Doubt or Not to Doubt; That is the Question

Intro: Shakespeare wrote these oft quoted lines from literature "To be, or not to be, that is the question"

When it comes to the trials and challenges of every day life I would like to approach it with these words

"To doubt or not to doubt; that is the question"

Are you a person who is a doubter? What or who do you doubt the most and what has it done to your life in general or what does it do to your spiritual life in particular? Don't forget, Faith can move mountains, doubt can create them...

I would like to think on this subject for a few minutes today because I would imagine doubt affects us all in a profound way at some time or other.

I. Doubt defined

It is distrust, uncertainty, hesitation, lack of confidence, or an inclination not to believe or accept something and is closely related to skepticism. Based on that definition, let me ask the question, do we have any doubters here??

II. How doubt works.

A. It disables progress

We are afraid to push on. Doubt's favorite words are (what if) instead of (what if we don't). **Thought:** Doubt sees the obstacles—faith sees the way.

B. It discourages faith

Thought: Doubt asks, (can God?) Faith says (I believe God can and will)

C. It depletes energy

Thought: The energy a person spends doubting and trying to answer the what if 's of life is energy that is not available for spiritual growth and service.

D. It disappoints God

He says trust me Isaiah 26:3,4; Proverbs 3:5-7

Thought: He pleases God best who trusts him most.

E. It destroys the assurance of answered prayer. James 1:1-8 V 6-8

Thought: Morphine may be a helpful pain killer but doubt is a destructive prayer killer.

F. It causes us to sink under seemingly adverse circumstances. Matthew 14:22-33 V 30,31

III. Things we doubt and God's response to them

A. God's love for us

Yet God speaks Romans 8:31-39 to us

Thought: God loves his children, not because of who they are, what they believe or don't believe, but because of who he is.

B. God's ability to provide

His response to us is. Philippians 4:19; Matthew 6:19-34

C. God's desire for our success

He responds with Jeremiah 29:11; Rom. 8:28

IV. Final thoughts on doubt

1. Doubting God exalts man. I doubt that God can, so I will have to try and figure it out on my own but I doubt if I can.
2. If we doubt God's ability to keep and provide for us after we are saved then in reality we must have doubted his ability to save us in the first place. Correct??
3. **Thought:** Based on James Chpt. 1 we can reasonably conclude that a doubter is a person who is sea sick during the entire voyage of life. How about you, is your boat rocking with doubt?

In conc. Lets look at the challenge from the great prophet Elijah and it is a good one for us today as well. I Kings 18:21-24 V 21

Thought: When your life is plagued with doubt try and think about it this way, Will you choose your faulty reasoning power or will you choose His actual power?

The choice of God's actual power will leave no doubt about who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen, so be it.

Well dear friend have you gotten to the place where doubt has cast a shadow over your life and you would like to be free from it? Maybe you have never met Christ and you doubt He would even want to be part of your life. If that is the case with you then why not read the following and do, by faith, what it says and start out with new dreams and hopes and see if God proves more powerful than your doubts.

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God. Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the _____ day of _____ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: _____

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at lapeerchurch@gmail.com Subject line: (Salvation)