

DOUBTING GOD—7
WHEN YOU FEEL ABANDONED BY GOD

09:55 am **5 Min. Count Down - VIDEO**

10:00 am ****LIVE Worship –**

10:25 am ****LIVE In House Welcome –**

WELCOME to The Peak CC

Welcome our Church Online Platform –

We are so glad you could join us as we worship the Lord & expound on His Word.

If this is your 1st time or perhaps you've been with us before but haven't engaged... Please fill out

***Online Connect Card * -> RightNow Media**

10:30 AM ****Announcements Video - Tithing**

10:32am LIVE SHOT – Welcome - Pastor Self Intro -

Sunday School: 1st things 1st 9am Sundays 2nd floor.

Next-Gen:

Feb 5th

9am Sundays Balcony

Feb 24th

Grand Prix Auto Mt Kisco

Life Groups Home Groups 7pm Mon Nights - coming soon -
Host Family Needed

True North Youth Ranch - HAY DRIVE - sending out an
e-mail

Missionary to Italy - Feb . 19th Rev. Joe & Mary Benecasa

Chaplaincy 5 critical incident responses in the past 3
months... NOT including the Hillcrest Fire. 24 people 16
housing units incinerated.

VIDEO *Peekskill Today

Chaplaincy Ministry is *great soil to sow seed in...* We've
invested a good amount in this area recently just trusting in
the Lord... & some of you, to walk in obedience to what the
Lord says...

Who's world has felt as if it has been under attack?

Why would a loving God allow bad things to happen?

Even Jesus felt darkness...

*From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all
the land. ⁴⁶About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a*

loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you **forsaken** me?”). Matthew 27:45-46 NIV

Forsaken: rejected, deserted, let go, abandoned.

Jesus’ experience on the cross. Abandoned by everyone (Judas, crowd, other disciples). Beaten, humiliated, and hung on cross. Carrying our sin.

Abandoned by God, His heavenly Father. Pain of rejection. Heart BROKEN.

I don't know if you can relate to the pain of rejection,...?

Maybe your parents, your spouse, close friend, employer, coworker. It deeply hurts when someone of TRUST hurts you.

BUT it's Even worse when YOU feel abandoned by God.

Where are You, God, in the middle of my pain?

Personal testimony of being 22YO & facing 25 to life...

Why did this happen? No one else to blame! Where are You? Is life worth living anymore? Are You even real?

Feeling all alone. We can end up rejecting God. Doubting God, running away from God instead of to God. We can quit praying, reading the Bible, attending church, serving, running from rather than leaning in to God.

3 Right Responses When You Feel Abandoned by God

The RIGHT RESPONSE to “*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*”

OPENING PRAYER

1. Remind yourself God loves you and HE is with you.

God has not left you on your worst day. Never ever will He leave you. Omnipresent...

He’s still there EVEN when we walk away.

*Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “**Never** will I leave you; **never** will I forsake you.”* Hebrews 13:5 NIV

• Because God is with you, you’re not alone.

*“... and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And **surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**”* Matthew 28:20 NIV

You may feel lonely. It may be hard right now. But God is with you. You are not alone.

• Because God is with you, take your hard questions to God.

*This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. ¹⁶So let us **come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.** Hebrews 4:15-16 NLT*

Go to the throne of grace **boldly. Bold prayers, bold questions, bold concerns.**

God is not intimidated or scared by any of it.

Why did this happen? Why didn't You do something?

I've been angry and confused and taken hard questions to God. Why did I make these poor choices?

Why did I have to have this monkey on my back?

Why did I have to go through back surgery?

Why did 24 people have to lose their homes and watch 16 units burn to the ground along with all their precious positions?

WHY GOD!?

Sometimes I get clarity and insight. I get mercy and peace and grace and strength. He meets me right there and I'm able to make it another day.

• Because God is with you, this season is a part of your story, not the entire story.

Being on the cross was just a part of Jesus' story. There was purpose in His pain. He rose from the grave. The Cross wasn't
THE STORY

*For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. **Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.***
1 Corinthians 13:12 ESV

We know in part on this earth.

We can't see the whole story God is writing. What you're going through is a chapter in your book, not the whole book.

Don't let one chapter define the rest of your life. God is with you.

I look back at challenging seasons and *it's amazing what distance will do.* 1

year 3 year 5 year 10. 20. That moment, that pain was a part of my story, not the whole story.

2. Turn "Why, God?" into "What, God?"

When facing a difficult chapter and it feels like God is not with you ...

• Ask God: What do You want to teach me?

Even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things He suffered.
Hebrews 5:8 NLT

Jesus stayed on the cross because He understood **THE WHAT**.

So it is important to ask “what” and not just “why.”

Otherwise we question His goodness, character, love, and promises.

Asking “what” = leaning into what there is to learn.

• Ask God: **What do You want to do in me?**

Paul had a “Thorn” in his side on his flesh... ??

Paul asked God to remove the thorn in his flesh **but God didn't do it.**

... or because of these surpassingly great revelations.

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

2 Corinthians 12:7 NIV

Paul didn't stay at “**Why, God?**” He turned to “**What, God?**”

He realized the thorn had a purpose: to keep him from becoming conceited.

Bad days can reveal what's inside us—weaknesses, hindrances, habits, attitude

NEVER know what's in the olive until it's in the olive press....

Steward your pain well.

What are You wanting to do in me, God? teach me, deal with...

• Ask God: What do You want to do through me?

Often times when God wants to do something THROUGH us, We encounter troubles and trials. We run into pain & suffering.

God uses these moments for something GREATER than ourselves....

On Jesus' worst day ever, He paid the sin debt for all of humanity on the cross.

There was purpose in the pain.

... fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2 NIV

Jesus endured because he was focused on the what.

Paul was imprisoned in shackles & enclosed in a repurposed septic tank... He suffered a "Thorn in the Flesh"...wrote almost 2/3 of NT, raised up other leaders like Timothy.

God uses our greatest pain as a launching pad for our greatest calling.

Our greatest ministry comes out of our greatest misery.

I think of my life...The pain of being abused at age 7. Struggling with suicidal thoughts. Bitterness and anger for life's situation... alcoholic father who was 20 years older than mom... who was never engaged in my life. , questioning **why** God?

Night clubs, streets, drugs, addictions, violence, prison,

WHY GOD?

in 1995 in that 6x9 cell @ the TOMBS.... 100 center street... Jesus appeared to me.... showed me His Face... transformed my heart..... Facing 25 to LIFE... I was NEVER FREER

God took all my pain and hurt and uses it today: a heart for the broken and abused. a heart for 1st responders, a heart to set the captive FREE...

Helping other broken people. trauma, crisis, feeling lost & abandoned... to KNOW THE TRUTH.... so the Truth can set them Free....

3. When you can't trace God's hand, trust God's heart.

Jesus is NOT powerless. The Jesus we serve has power. He could have gotten off the cross.

Yet He stayed and trusted His heavenly Father's plan.

Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

Luke 23:46 NIV

Jesus felt abandoned, in pain—*but He still trusted His Father.*

Trust in God

No matter what you going through... prodigal child, financial struggle, marital issues, loss of EVERYTHING...

Don't let bad days turn down your faith & trust in God.

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 1:20 NIV

How many promises did God fulfill?

In the book **All the Promises of the Bible**, the author Herbert Locklear found **7,147 promises from God to man** in the Bible.

We turn up our trust, by saying AMEN to the promises of God.

... "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

Hebrews 13:5 NIV

Amen, God! You're with me.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28 NIV

Amen, God!

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us ...

Ephesians 3:20 NKJV

Amen, God!

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 NIV

Amen, God! I trust You will provide!

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23 NIV

Amen, God!

Your character has not changed on a bad day.

It's hard, but I trust You. I don't understand it all, but I trust You, even when I cannot trace You.

As we enter into our last week of Prayer & fasting...

Let's seek to know God in a deeper experience?

To confess our shortcomings / express how sorry we are for some of the things we've done??

To have a more profound prayer life & experience??

Would you like to know His Will for you personally, and corporately as His church? What are you willing to sacrifice?

We need to re-learn that we eat to live and NOT live to eat....

Man Shall NOT live by BREAD alone... But by EVERY WORD that proceeds from the Mouth of God.

If this was the 1st time that you really dedicated yourself to Jesus... Recognize Him as NOT only your Savior.... But also, your KING...

*I'd like to invite you to connect w/ us..... @thepeakcc.com
Visitors link... fill out that connect card...*

*“The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you,
The Lord lift His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.”*

*I bless you in the Name of the Father, & of the SON, & of
the Holy Spirit... Amen!!*