

## Advent 2020

### 1. When in Doubt

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

10:00 am **\*\*LIVE Worship –**

10:25 am **LIVE SHOT – Welcome to Church :-  
ONLINE & LIVE worship -----**

self Intro - Opening Prayer - Tithes - *Stand by for  
Announcements*

10:30 am **\*\*VIDEO\*\* - Announcements & Giving**

10:34 am **LIVE SHOT: WELCOME to The Peak CC  
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...**

**\*Online Connect Card \* - ThePeakCC.com**

**RightNow Media**

**\*Church Business Meeting - ZOOM - Voting Members -**

**\*REMOTE CHURCH**

**9 weeks - Sermon Series Book of Philippians**

- **Start to Finish - Opening**
- **Preaching Christ**
- **Life in Death**
- **Army of One**
- **Servant Leaders**
- **Stop Crying      Do all things w/o complaining & disputing**
- **Emotional Connections**
- **The Worship of Knowing      *Knowing HIM through Worship -***
- **Let Go 2 Lay Hold - Letting go of the Past to Lay hold of the future...**

**\*Podcast Plug – Available on our Church App!!**

***New Giving Platform - subsplash - website / app***

## **The Hitchhiker**

**Doubt is not unbelief, but it is not faith either. It wavers between faith and unbelief, unable to make up its mind what it wants to be. It is like the hitchhiker who was thumbing a ride with his hand in one direction—and thumbing a ride with his other hand in the other direction. He wasn't sure which way he wanted to go.**

*Kent Crockett, The 911 Handbook, Hendrickson Publishers.*

**Ever encounter doubt in your life?? A moment in time when what you thought you knew, you suddenly realize you really did'nt.**

**Most of us live in this world of sceptisisim & doubt.  
Batteling:**

**- Fake News**

**-re-writting / earasing history**

**-internet / phone scams**

**-falabile people - meaning well - just ignarant**

**The numbing sensation of the daily monotony killing off all creative vision & growth.**

**Many experts would argue that humans are actually hardwired to be doubtful. / skeptics. Questioning even their own capabilities...**

**As we prepare to to approach this Christmas Season, I want to spend the next few weeks focusing in on receiving our Savior. .**

**Coming to that Place where Heaven meets Earth.**

**For the past 450 years the heavens have been silent. No prophetic utterances, No Angelic Hosts. No Messianic Fulfillment.... *Even Religious people doubted***

**We're going to start our Advent series at the very begining of Jesus' Story. We're going to examine the announcement of our Kings coming and 4 very different responses. Lets reflect on these in the upcoming weeks as we journey this mini Advent Series called "Angles We Have Heard on High"**

## Opening Prayer

\*LUKE 1:5-25 NIV

<sup>5</sup>In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. <sup>6</sup>Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. <sup>7</sup>But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

<sup>8</sup>Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, <sup>9</sup>he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. <sup>10</sup>And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

<sup>11</sup>*Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.* <sup>12</sup>When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and *was gripped with fear.* <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; **your prayer has been heard.** Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him *John.*" <sup>14</sup>He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, <sup>15</sup>for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be *filled with the Holy Spirit* even before he is born. <sup>16</sup>*He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.* <sup>17</sup>*And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."*

<sup>18</sup> Zechariah asked the angel, *“How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”*

<sup>19</sup> The angel said to him, *“I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. <sup>20</sup> And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”*

<sup>21</sup> Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. <sup>22</sup> When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

<sup>23</sup> When his time of service was completed, he returned home. <sup>24</sup> After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. <sup>25</sup> “The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

[\*The New International Version\*](#). (2011). (Lk 1:5–25). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

## **1) Doubt in the presence of surety**

**I often equate levels of doubt - with levels of relationship w/ God.**

**we doubt what we dont know. we question what we're not familiar with. right?**

**Do you trust the corner grocery market person the way you would trust your uncle or aunt? NO of course not.**

**In the NATURAL - Zechariah's question is totally reasonable.. <sup>18</sup>Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."**

**Both he & his wife were both beyond the age of childbearing... scientifically, physiologically, impossability..**

**However... after a lifetime of serving God... Of Royal Priesthood lineage. His wife ALSO of the same levitical line... Well versed in scriptures.. "*Didn't this same exact thing happen to Abrahm & Sari??*" Is'nt the God of Israel the God of miracles??**

**& yet... *Knowing all of that & NOW* even while standing in the presence of the Arch-Angel Gabriel. *Recieving a message all of Israel has longed to hear... c'mon...***

**HE DOUBTED..**

**"How can I be sure of this?" He asked**

**& whats crazy is .... rather than set him up on a platform to herald the news... rather than giving him a louder voice to proclaim the "glad tidings" - "Good News".**

**Because he didnt believe the words of the angel...**

**the exact opposite happened...**

**2) He was silenced to spread the news.**

**God's ways are NOT our ways, His thoughts are not our thoughts.**

**His punishment for his disbelief was to be made deaf & mute.**

**The thing you think would hinder the objective is the very spring board that would launch it into existence.**

***God will USE me in SPITE of me.***

**This should be refreshing to some people... *Even if you mess up, God will still use it.* Step out in Faith. Dont hold back. He IS ABLE!! The evidence is ALL AROUND YOU.**

**\*LUKE 1:57-80      NIV**

**The Birth of John the Baptist**



<sup>57</sup> When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. <sup>58</sup> Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

<sup>59</sup> On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, <sup>60</sup> but his mother spoke up and said, *“No! He is to be called John.”*

<sup>61</sup> They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

<sup>62</sup> Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. <sup>63</sup> He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment *he wrote, “His name is John.”* <sup>64</sup> *Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God.* <sup>65</sup> *All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things.* <sup>66</sup> *Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?”* For the Lord’s hand was with him.

### **Zechariah’s Song:**

<sup>67</sup> His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

<sup>68</sup> *“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.*

<sup>69</sup> *He has raised up a horn<sup>z</sup> of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David*

<sup>70</sup> *(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),*

<sup>71</sup> *salvation from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us—*

<sup>72</sup> *to show mercy to our ancestors  
and to remember his holy covenant,*

<sup>73</sup> *the oath he swore to our father Abraham:*

<sup>74</sup> *to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,  
and to enable us to serve him without fear*

***<sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.***

***<sup>76</sup> And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,***

***<sup>77</sup> to give his people the knowledge of salvation  
through the forgiveness of their sins,***

***<sup>78</sup> because of the tender mercy of our God,  
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven***

***<sup>79</sup> to shine on those living in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”***

**<sup>80</sup> And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.**

[\*The New International Version.\*](#) (2011). (Lk 1:57–80). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

**I wish I could say the fulfillment of these things removed all doubt. But it didnt. in fact... It may have even created GREATER DOUBT.**

***Lets take a look at the perspective of someone who actually walked w/ Jesus....***

**\*VIDEO\* JESUS REIGNS - Skit Guys Studios**

**So how do you overcome doubt??**

## **Steps to take when you begin to have doubts:**

### **1. Pray**

Whenever you have doubts, ask God for His help. Be specific with the doubt you are having.

God will increase your faith, and give you the peace He promises that guards our hearts (feelings) and minds (thoughts) from future doubts.

*Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.;*

### **2. Change your thinking**

*2 Corinthians 10:5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

Much of our doubt comes from how we feel, not what we know. “I don’t feel saved; I don’t feel loved; I don’t feel God has forgiven me”. Your faith should never be based on how you feel but on what you know! We must remind ourselves what is true regardless of how we feel.

John 17:17 says “your word is truth,” and Romans 10:17 says “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

*Faith is the opposite of doubt; therefore the way to get rid of doubt (emotional or intellectual) is to replace your doubts with truth.*

### **3. Practice**

Whenever we worry or doubt, we should repeat this process.

***Practice it when everything is going well and especially when we're being overwhelmed by emotions. Study scripture when you're not doubting, so when you do doubt, You're PREPARED.***

***"An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure"***

**So the keys to overcoming doubts are:**

- **Admit you have doubts – be specific about what they are and ask for God's help.**
- **Remember our faith is not based on how we feel but what we know!**
- **Fill our thoughts with truth – God's Word.**
- **Study the evidence that proves what you believe is true!**
- **This is not a one-time remedy; it's a habit we need to build into our lives.**

**You can grow in your faith and mature as you deal with doubt! So if you find yourself doubting, there's nothing to be ashamed of;**

**Zechariah's question may have been natural... however his motive was wrong.... In his heart *his problem became greater than God***

**Mary asked the angel "How can this be since she hasn't "known" a man?"**

**Not all doubt is sinful. Mary's attitude was still, "*Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.*"**

**They're are things that go way beyond our comprehension..**

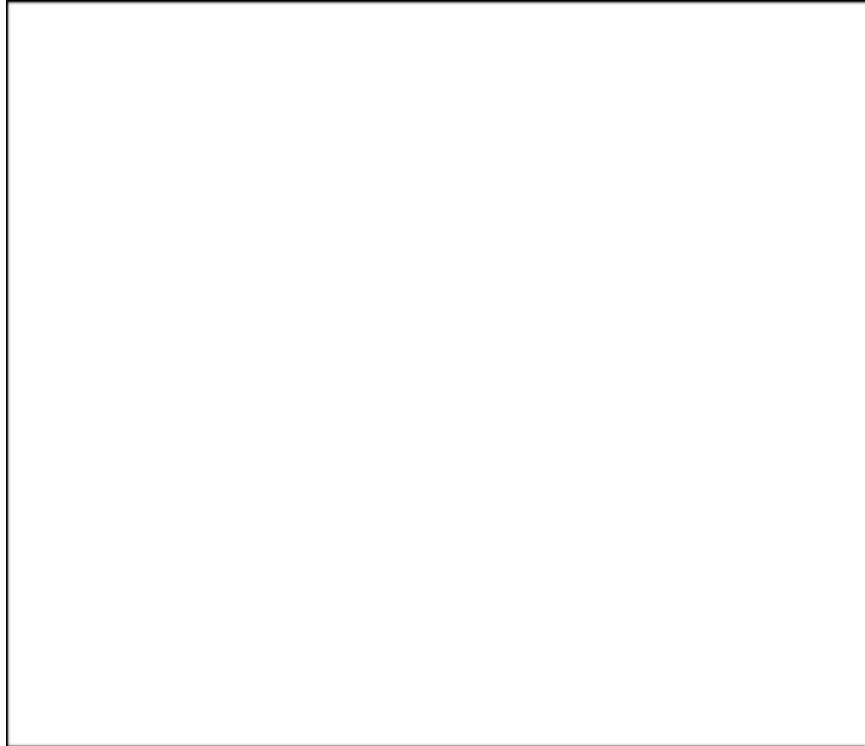
*We all carry degrees of doubt. I believe that why some of us don't pray as often or as fervently as we know we ought.... in fear of not receiving what we're asking for...*

***"You can't TRUST Someone you don't KNOW"***

**How well do YOU know God? And, how do you look at life through that lense? Is GOD GREATER THAN YOUR FEARS OR ... Doubts?**

**What are your doubts today? What are you questioning? Let's bring them now before the light of the Lord...**

***Lighting of the Advent Candle***



**As we get ready to light the 1st advent candle..**

**Let HOPE Arise in our hearts defeating any doubt...  
crippling any fear.**

**When our King returns, let us find ourselves prepared and  
ready to receive Him. Amen!?**

**\*\* CANDLE LIGHTING - Prayer...**

### **CALL TO ACTION**

**Do you KNOW HIM? Enough to TRUST HIM??**

**Dear God, .....**

**salvation prayer...**

**Perhaps you stumbled across this post online by  
accident. Or someone invited you.**

**Would you give us an opportunity to connect with  
you? Fill out a Connect Card - in person / online**

**Please contact us via our website @thepeakcc.com Let  
us know how we can come along your side to help your  
spiritual growth...**

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***“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!!***

The New King James Version. (1982). (Php 3:17–4:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

The New King James Version. (1982). (2 Co 5:21). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

The New King James Version. (1982). (Ro 3:21–22). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

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The New King James Version. (1982). (Php 3:12–16). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

The New King James Version. (1982). (Php 3:10–11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

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