

HOPE FOR MY FAITH

Hope for the Future: Part 5

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THREE CAUSES OF DOUBT

1. **CRITICS.**

They scoff at God and threaten his people...so God's people are dismayed and confused and drink it all in. "Does God realize what is going on?" they ask. (Psalm 73:8-11, The Living Bible)

2. **CONSCIENCE.**

"I cry out to God; yes, I shout. Oh, that God would listen to me! When I was in deep trouble, I searched for the Lord. All night long I prayed...but my soul was not comforted. I think of God, and I moan, overwhelmed with longing for his help." (Psalm 77:1-3, NLT)

3. **CIRCUMSTANCES.**

"O God, do not be silent! Do not be deaf. Do not be quiet, O God. Don't you hear...? Don't you see...?" (Psalm 83:1-2, NLT)

WHAT GOOD IS MY DOUBT?

1. IT **DRIVES** ME TO PRAYER;

"O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water." (Psalm 63:1, NLT)

2. WHERE I **DISCOVER** NEW POWER,

"I have seen you in your sanctuary and gazed upon your power and glory." (Psalm 63:2, NLT)

3. WHICH **DEEPENS** MY PRAISE.

"Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise you!" (Psalm 63:3, NLT)

HOW TO DEAL WITH MY DOUBTS

1. DECLARE YOUR DOUBTS.

"I believed in you, so I said, "I am deeply troubled, LORD." (Psalm 116:10, NLT)

"Be merciful to those who doubt;" (Jude 22, NIV)

John the Baptist

When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" (Matthew 11:2-3, NIV)

"I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. (Matthew 11:11a, NLT)

Thomas

They told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side." (John 20:25, NLT)

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!" (John 20:27, NLT)

Saul / Paul

We are often troubled...sometimes in doubt...many enemies...badly hurt at times, we are not destroyed. (2 Corinthians 4:8-9, GNT)

The Lord said, "...Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel." (Acts 9:15, NLT)

2. DOUBT YOUR DOUBTS.

"The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked..." (Jeremiah 17:9, NLT)

...lean not on your own understanding; (Proverbs 3:5, NIV)

*The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me **OVERCOME** my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24, NLT)*

WHEN YOU CANNOT TRACE HIS HAND, TRUST HIS HEART.

3. DESTROY YOUR DOUBTS.

1) Step into TRUTH.

“When doubts filled my mind, your comfort gave me renewed hope and cheer.” (Psalm 94:19, NLT)

NEVER DOUBT IN THE DARK WHAT GOD HAS SHOWN YOU IN THE LIGHT.

2) Step out in FAITH.

“And so, Lord, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in you.” (Psalm 39:7, NLT)

**ACTION STEP:
EASTER INVITE!**