

Part 1 - What are Faith and Doubt?

Part 2 - How can we address doubt?

- **Don't add to the Gospel**
- **Don't be defensive**
- **Journey through questions**
- **Use the tools available**

...think of yourself with sober judgment,
in accordance with **the faith God has
distributed** to each of you... We have
different gifts, **according to the grace
given to each of us.**

Doubt and faith are a part of the Christian life

Romans 12:3-6

What is Faith?

- **Blind faith**- trusting in something for no reasons
- **Faith**- trusting in something for good reasons

Faith is Good!

- “Faith is the confidence of what we hope for, and the assurance about things **we don’t see**”. (Hebrews 11:1)
- “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who **have not seen** and yet have believed.” (John 20:29)
- Faith frees us from being slaves to our perception
- It’s like overdraft protection
- Faith is necessary for rational thought!



What is Doubt?

- Questioning what you believe
- Evidence of Faith!
- An emotion- not a sin
- Can be dangerous or helpful



Everyone Has Doubts

ALL RELIGIOUS PEOPLE	ATHEISTS & AGNOSTICS
• Doubt the nature/existence of supernatural beings • Doubt the truth/goodness of their holy book(s)	• Doubt their mental faculties • Doubt philosophers and scientists



Why do Christians doubt?

- 1. Smart people disagree with Christianity**
- 2. Personal suffering**
- 3. Certain Christians are stupid/evil**
- 4. God's hiddenness**
- 5. Intellectual arguments against Christianity**

Summarizing Part 1

- 1. Faith is good, and doubt is a part of the system too**
- 2. Every worldview has faith and doubts- so it's unavoidable**
- 3. Doubt is an emotion that can be caused by either emotional or intellectual reasons**

Part 2

Responding to Doubters

1. Don't Add to the Gospel

What must we Believe?

1. Jesus Christ is truly God incarnate and truly man.
2. Jesus died for sins and physically rose from the dead.
3. Salvation and eternal life comes through him alone.
4. Jesus is Lord and head of the Church.
5. God has authoritatively revealed himself through the Bible.

2. Be secure in your own reasons to believe

Most of what we believe is based only on our experience

Memories	Moral intuitions	Trustworthy Testimony	Witness of the Holy Spirit	Miracles	Personal experience with God
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No need to be defensive

- Even if someone asks questions we can't answer, that doesn't invalidate the evidence for Christianity that we experience.
- We can pursue truth without fear or suspicion, because we have a good reason to believe — it just isn't transferable.
- Knowing vs. Showing the truth of the Gospel.

3. Journey through hard questions

**Perceived Evil in the
World**

The logical problem
The emotional problem

**Perceived Evil in
the Bible**

Hell
Slavery

**Perceived Evil in the
Church**

The Crusades
Residential schools

There is good evidence for Christianity!

1. Leibnizian cosmological argument
2. Fine Tuning Argument
3. Moral argument
4. Kalaam cosmological argument
5. Ontological argument
6. Argument from evolution
7. Argument from consciousness
8. Argument from aesthetics
9. The argument from the applicability of mathematics
10. The evidence for the resurrection of Jesus
11. The evidence for the reliability of the Bible
12. Testimonial evidence of the Holy Spirit's miraculous power

4. Tools for Doubters

- **Christian community**
- **Studying the issues**
- **Engaging emotions- worship, rituals, etc.**
- **Reading the Bible**
- **Prayer**

