

August 17 & 18, 2019



DOUBT

Doubters where we least expect to find them

1. The Doubting Disciple

Thomas doubted that the other disciples had seen the risen Jesus.

John 20:24 *Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"*

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

26 *A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"*

27 *Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."*

28 *Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"*

29 *Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

2. The Stuttering Statesman

Moses doubted that God could use him.

"I am not eloquent," Moses told God at the burning bush. "I never have been. So, I think you have asked the wrong man. For you see, I am heavy of mouth and heavy of tongue."
(Exodus 4:10, Gerald McDermott in *First Things*)

3. The Hiding Hero

Gideon doubted that God could protect him.

Judges 6:11 *...Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. 12 When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."*

13 *"But sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said . . .*

15 *"But Lord," Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."*

16 *The LORD answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together."*

17 *Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me."*

4. The Pessimistic Patriarch

Abraham doubted that God could provide for him.

Genesis 17:17 *Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?"*

5. The Sinking Saint

Peter doubted that he could do what God said he could do.

Matthew 14:29 *...Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"*

31 *Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"*

6. The Doubleminded Dad

This father doubted that he had enough faith.

Mark 9:23 *"If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."*

24 *Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"*

7. The Back- stepping Baptist

John doubted his own words.

John 1:29 *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'*

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

Matthew 11:11 *I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist . . .*

If you are dealing with doubt, you are not alone.

Dealing with Doubt

1. Relating: Stay connected to a community of believers

In a word, it is called Fellowship.

2. Remaining: Stay fresh in God's Word

Doubt feeds on negative thinking.

Doubt is overcome by Faith.

Faith comes from God's Word.

3. Remembering: Faith is rooted in stories.

4. Requesting: "Help my unbelief"