

**BLESSED ASSURANCE  
For Those Who Doubt  
2 Peter 1:1-2**

Introduction: Why I am preaching this series. [\[Share my story of DOUBT!\]](#)

- \*I grew up in church, resisted his Spirit for years, and was saved at 15.
- \*I struggled with doubts about my salvation on and off for 6 or 7 years!
  - I was leading people to Christ and serving in the ministry during this time!
- \*This created great frustration, fear, and immobilization.
- \*I finally chose to get it SETTLED once and for all.
  - I was spent time studying 2 Peter 1 and 1 John to “examine myself . . .”
  - Both writers make it clear that you can KNOW that you are his!

**1 John 5:12-13 NLT**

12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. 13 I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **so that you may know you have eternal life.**

- But this assurance will require action on YOUR part.
- Remember, ALL RELATIONSHIPS require effort and investment!

**2 Peter 1:10 NIV**

10 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to **confirm** your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble.

- I have not doubted my salvation for more than 30 years now!
- In this series, I will share with you how God’s word settled this for me.

**TODAY, I CHALLENGE YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU KNOW HIM!**

Our VISION as a church is simple and astounding: Bring hope to the world by helping people to FIND and FOLLOW Jesus Christ.

- \*It is a beautiful, biblical vision. But it comes with a real challenge.

How can we help people find and follow the God we CANNOT SEE or TOUCH?

- The answer will help bona fide agnostics and Christians who doubt!
- The answer involves a proper understanding of Faith and Doubt.

\*Doubt is a legitimate struggle for all of us! [Ortberg – [Faith and Doubt](#)]

[\[My conversation with Patrick in the hospital – a true agnostic.\]](#)

- He could not see how someone could believe in Christ, much less love him!

Jesus directly addressed the unique challenge of all of us who simply must believe in him without the benefit of seeing him. He spoke of this in several places in the Gospels, but it is especially clear in **John 20:24-29 NLT**

24 One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. 25 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." 26 Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said. 27 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!" 28 "My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed. 29 **Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."**

Thomas said that he would believe if he could see, and he did. But that is not always the case! In the gospel of Matthew, we read that some who saw still doubted!

### **Matthew 28:17 NLT**

**17 When they saw him, they worshiped him--but some of them doubted!**

Those struggling with faith have to be told that Jesus realized how difficult it would be for us to believe without seeing (it was hard enough for them to believe WHAT they saw!), but he also affirmed that we would be greatly BLESSED specifically BECAUSE we believe without seeing!

-Blessed means "Happy, Deeply satisfied."

-Blessed was used to describe the abundance of the wealthy who lived above the normal cares and worries of average folk!

-It was also used to describe the "condition of the Greek gods" who, because they had whatever they desired, lived in a high state of satisfied contentment.

\*You CAN be blessed like this in your relationship with God!

Simon Peter wrote to people who had never seen Christ in the flesh but who were experiencing the blessedness that Christ described, so his words ought to ring with relevance in our ears. **1 Peter 1:8-9 NIV**

**8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you **are receiving** the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.**

The words from Peter and Jesus reveal something RICH about the nature of God:  
**God WANTS to be found!**

He is not PLAYING GAMES with your soul. **[Like a cat plays with yarn!]** He wants you to KNOW HIM and to be completely SATISFIED in your relationship with him.

\*Knowing God is the KEY THEME of 2 Peter! **2 Peter 1:1-2 AMP**

**1** Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle (special messenger, personally chosen representative) of Jesus Christ, To those who have received *and* possess **[by God's will]** a precious faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: **2** Grace and peace [that special sense of spiritual well-being] be multiplied to you in the [true, intimate] knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

- Simon Peter was a beautiful EXAMPLE of this! [**Bond-slave** and Apostle]
- \*Your faith is just as precious as Simon Peter's faith!
- God wants you to experience his grace and his peace in ABUNDANCE!
- Grace and Peace (note the order) can INCREASE, as you grow closer to him!

**2 Peter 1:2 NLT**

**2** May God give you more and more grace and peace **as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord.**

**God always makes the FIRST MOVE!**

- \*I am NOT a Calvinist, but I do believe that God always goes first!
- \*My LIFE VERSE: Philippians 1:6

**-He LOVES you! 1 John 4:19 NKJV**  
**19** We love Him because He **first** loved us.

**-He REVEALS himself to you!** [Nature, Circumstances, People, His Word!]  
**Romans 10:17 NASB**  
**17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.  
 -If you have heard the Gospel, then be sure that God is speaking to you!  
 -Faith is a GIFT from God! [**1 Peter 1:2 – See Above**]

**-He promises that those who seek him WILL find him!**

**-He CHOSE you. 1 Peter 1:2 NLT**  
**2** God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more grace and peace.

- If he has chosen you, then you will be PURSUED in your spirit by God!  
**[Lisa: She chased me until I found her!] [Conviction is pursuit!]**
- His Holy Spirit will bear witness of this in your heart! (**1 John 4:13 NLT**)

**-He provides grace to save you.** [Salvation is HIS!]

**-He keeps you secure.**

\*God has done everything necessary for you to belong to him, but . . .

**Your responsibility is to RECEIVE him, CONFESS him, and FOLLOW him by faith.**

Our FAITH is the KEY to knowing God. That is true of EVERY RELATIONSHIP that you will ever have!

**RECEIVING: John 1:12-13 NKJV**

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

\*This is a GIFT that you simply receive by FAITH! **[Review my salvation!]**

**-I realized that God had clearly shown me my lost condition!**

\*You RECEIVE this gift by simply ASKING for it!

-This was where I struggled the MOST! **[I was looking for a FEELING!]**

-I had to learn to TRUST in what God had promised, esp. when I doubted me!

**CONFESSION: 1 John 4:15 NLT**

15 All who confess that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God.

\*Have you verbalized your commitment to God? **(Romans 10:9-10)**

\*Have you publicly proclaimed yourself as a follower of Christ?

-BAPTISM is that first, obedient step of public confession!

**FOLLOWING: 1 John 2:4-6 NLT**

4 If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. 5 But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. 6 Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

\*This is NOT salvation through works, but the OUTWORKING of salvation!

-Assurance will not just come from the MEMORY of a prayer.

-Assurance will grow as you LIVE OUT your faith on a daily basis!

\*"Following Faith" is NOT an emotional feeling.

[3 kinds of Faith: Public Convictions, Private Convictions, Core Convictions]

-Become a student of your faith to see which convictions truly guide you!

**MY CHALLENGE TO YOU TODAY:**

\*Read 2 Peter 1 and 1 John 1-5 in your quiet times with God during this series.

\*Review your own spiritual condition to make certain that you belong to him!

\*Ask him to REVEAL HIMSELF to you in the way that YOU will understand!

Let's pray