

June 9, 2019
GOD NEVER SAID THAT – Part 6
“Doubt is Sin”

There is a difference between doubting God’s Truth and denying God’s Truth.

“For faith to be exercised, doubt needs to be an option and factored into the belief equation.”
R.P. Hageman

John the Baptist doubted Jesus Christ even after he had affirmed Him as Messiah.

18 The disciples of John reported to him about all these things. 19 Summoning two of his disciples, John sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?” 20 When the men came to Him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to You, to ask, ‘Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?’”
Luke 7:18-20 (NASB)

Although Jesus was performing many miracles, John had been imprisoned and the Kingdom of God was not appearing in the way John expected it.

Jesus did not chastise John for doubting but provided evidence and encouragement.

21 At that very time He cured many people of diseases and afflictions and evil spirits; and He gave sight to many who were blind. 22 And He answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM. 23 Blessed is he who does not take offense at Me.”
Luke 7:21-23 (NASB)

The average person of that day accepted the message and ministry of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ, yet the religious leaders did not.

28 “I say to you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” 29 When all the people and the tax collectors heard this, they acknowledged God’s justice, having been baptized with the baptism of John. 30 But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God’s purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John.
Luke 7:28-30 (NASB)

The Pharisees and lawyers had prideful hearts and critical attitudes that prevented them from receiving the ministries of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ.

Later, Jesus confronted them and exposed the reason they rejected Him.

³⁹ “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; ⁴⁰ and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. ⁴¹ I do not receive glory from men; ⁴² but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. ⁴³ I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him. ⁴⁴ How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?”
John 5:39-44 (NASB)

Although sincere doubt is not sin, denial and rejection of God’s truth is.

²¹ For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Romans 1:21-23 (NASB)

The danger of self-righteousness and pride is that we close ourselves off to God’s truth and may only seek information that affirms what we already believe.

³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires.
2 Timothy 4:3 (NASB)

Q. How do we deal with doubts and the underlying expectations they represent?

A. Be honest about doubts and bring them before God and those you trust.

Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.
Psalm 62:8 (NASB)

Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2 (NASB)

Immediately the boy’s father cried out and said, “I do believe; help my unbelief.”
Mark 9:24 (NASB)

“A bruised reed He will not break; And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice.”
Isaiah 42:3 (NASB)

God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
1 Corinthians 1:9 (NASB)

Resources for dealing with doubt and strengthening your faith:

“The Knowledge of the Holy” Small Group beginning Wednesday 26 at Gateway

<https://www.rzim.org/> Difficult Questions. Thoughtful Answers. Ravi Zacharias International Ministries

“Disappointment with God” by Philip Yancey