

## YOU ASKED FOR IT:

- A sermon series to address your questions
- An introduction to learning how to find answers
- An invitation to being changed and maturing in your faith

## WEEK 5: WHAT DO WE DO WITH DOUBT?

- There are many questions people have regarding doubt. Just a few of them include:
  - Where does it come from?
  - Am I really saved if I doubt?
  - What can I do about my doubt?
  - How do I respond to other people's doubt?

## WHAT DO WE MEAN BY DOUBT?

- We actually hear a lot about the opposite of doubt in scripture. An antonym of doubt is faith.

***Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.***

- We actually see several concepts in scripture around the topic of doubt:
  - **Unbelief** – Is God real? Is He who He says He is? This kind of doubt leads to sin. (**Hebrews 3:18-19**)
  - **Fear** – Can God really get me through this situation?
  - **Mistrust** – Is God really concerned about me and is He really good all the time?

## WHERE DOES DOUBT COME FROM?

- **We are built for perfection.** When things seem far from perfect, it causes us to doubt.
- One of Satan's primary tactics is to get us to doubt what God says. (**Genesis 3**)
  - **Doubting God's sovereignty and goodness is one of the devil's greatest tools to separate us from God**
- Jesus said this about the devil and his lies:

***John 8:44 (NIV) He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.***

- **Sometimes we doubt most when we least expect it.** After Elijah had an amazing experience where God showed up in powerful, miraculous ways, Elijah became dejected to the point of wanting to end his life. (**1 Kings 19**) – **FEAR**
  - **Elijah felt all alone. This is another trick of the enemy.**
  - To remind Elijah that God was with him, God revealed Himself to Elijah
    - God is all-powerful, but He meets us in our quiet.
    - God let Elijah know there were 7,000 others Elijah didn't even know about that served God

- God had Elijah anoint Elisha as his servant and successor. **No longer would Elijah be alone. We all need others!**
- **When we suffer, it is easy to doubt.** We may even begin to wonder if God is real, or at least that He is who He says He is. We may doubt if our eternity is as certain as God says it is. – **UNBELIEF**
- Paul addressed this with the people of Corinth (**1 Corinthians 15:17-20**)

## WHAT DO I DO WITH MY DOUBT?

- If you doubt, you are in good company - The disciples doubted
  - (**Matthew 8:23-26**) – **FEAR**, (**Matthew 28:16-17**) – **UNCERTAINTY**
- Even Jesus in Gethsemane dealt with a form of doubt
  - (**Math 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-42**) - **UNCERTAINTY**
  - Jesus knew the plan. He knew it was the only way. He still wanted to make sure going through the horrible experience to come was the only way.
    - What did Jesus do? He told the Father how he felt and then trusted
    - **What we do with our doubt is far more important than if we doubt!**
  - We can go to God too – even when we are struggling with doubt (**Mark 9:24**)
- One of the best things we can do when we doubt is to remember God's faithfulness. God was constantly trying to remind people of His faithfulness
  - Through songs (**Psalms 77**)
  - Through historical records (**1 & 2 Chronicles**)
  - Through physical reminders (**Joshua 3**)

## WHAT DO I DO WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S DOUBTS?

- We encourage other Believers that doubt (**Hebrews 3:12-13, Jude 20-22**)
- When someone is an unbeliever, we share the truth with them, but in a way that makes it easy for them to hear (**2 Timothy 2:23-26, Jude 23**)

## NEXT STEPS

- Read God's Word so you can remember how He has been faithful for thousands of years
- Create a "Memorial stones" document that reminds you of God's faithfulness in your life
- Make sure you have people around you to encourage you