

The Benefit Of Doubt – Part 1

May 11, 2025

Doubt is not the enemy of faith.

Doubt is often a pathway to a deeper, and more meaningful faith.

Relatability Principle

You tend to dislike and distrust people whose lives seem perfect.

**You tend to trust and connect with people
who have similar problems to you.**

Sarah and Abraham: God says, "You're going to have a child in your old age!" Abraham and Sarah laughed! (**Genesis 17:17, 18:12**)

The Israelites: "God, You delivered us from slavery in Egypt but now in the desert we don't trust You." (**Exodus 16:2-3**)

Gideon: "God, if You are really with me, prove it one more time. (**Judges 6:36-40**)

John the Baptist: Jesus, I knew You were the One but now I'm sitting in prison and I'm not so sure. (**Matthew 11:2-3**)

Thomas: "I won't believe Jesus is alive unless I see Him with my own eyes. (**John 20:24-28**)

It's strangely comforting to me to see the people in the Bible that were full of faith yet occasionally battling with faith questions.

Doubting doesn't make you bad. It makes you human.

Matthew 28:16-17 (NIV) *"Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted."*

"They worshiped Him; but some doubted."

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) *"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"*

Why Do You Doubt?

- **You have questions you can't answer.**
- **You face situations that seem unfair.**
- **You experience hurts you can't resolve.**

**Sometimes we don't have any bend.
If you've got no bend, you break.**

**The church and the home should be
the safest places to ask hard questions.**

If Jesus made room for hard questions, shouldn't we?

John 20:24-25 (NIV) *"Now Thomas (also known as 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.'"*

John 14:2-4 (NIV) *"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."*

John 14:5 (NIV) *"Thomas said to Him, 'Lord, we don't know where You are going, so how can we know the way?'"*

John 11:14-16 (NIV) *"So then He told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' ¹⁶ Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'"*

That's not weak faith. That's bold loyalty.

John 20:26-28 (NLT) *"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."*

Sometimes one of the most faith-filled things you can do is come back.

God is not distant in your doubts.

Psalms 23:4a (NKJV) *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me."*

James 5:13-16 (NIV) *"Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."*

Isaiah 53:5 (NIV) *"But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed."*