



What to Do With Doubt - 14

(1) WHAT RESPONSE DID JESUS GIVE TO THOSE WHO WERE SKEPTICAL OF HIS DIVINITY?

Matthew 12:38, 39

Related Texts: Matthew 16:1-4; Luke 11:16, 29, 30; Mark 8:11, 12; John 2:18; 4:48

Many people, especially those who are new to the Christian life, are sometimes troubled with thoughts of doubt. There are many things in the Bible which they cannot explain, or even understand. Satan uses these to try to do away with their faith in the Scriptures and convince them they are not a revelation from God. They ask, "How can I know the right way? If the Bible is the sure Word of

God, how can I become free from these doubts and questions?"

God never asks us to believe of His existence without giving enough evidence to base our faith upon. His character and the truthfulness of His Word are all based on testimony that is reasonable and plentiful. But still God has never taken away the possibility for doubt. Our faith must rest on evidence, not on display. Those who wish to doubt will have their chance, while those who desire to know truth will find plenty of evidence on which to base their faith.

(2) WHY IS MAN UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE WAYS OF GOD?

Isaiah 55:8, 9

Related Texts: Psalm 92:5; 77:19; Matthew 11:25; Romans 11:34-36

It is not possible for our limited minds to know fully the character or the works of God who is the Unlimited One. To the smartest and most educated mind God will always remain hidden in mystery. “Canst thou by searching find out God? Canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? Deeper than hell; what canst thou know?” Job 11:7, 8.

The apostle Paul said, “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!” Romans 11:33. But though “clouds and darkness are round about Him,” “righteousness and judgment are the habitation of His throne.” Psalm 97:2. We can understand the way He deals with us and the motives by which He moves enough to see the endless love and mercy that are part of His unlimited power. He lets us understand as much of His ways that is for our good to know; and beyond this, we must still trust the hand that is almighty and the heart that is full of love.

(3) WHEN WE FAIL TO UNDERSTAND SCRIPTURE, WHAT CAUTION SHOULD WE HEED?

2 Peter 3:16, 17

Related Texts: Romans 16:17, 18; 2 Timothy 3:5-7; 2:16, 23; Jeremiah 23:35, 36

The Word of God is like the character of the Holy One who wrote it: it shows us mysteries that can never be totally understood by our limited minds. Some of these mysteries that are too deep for the human mind to explain, or even to fully understand are: the coming of sin

into the world, the first coming of Christ, how we can be born again, Christ’s resurrection, and many other subjects presented in the Bible. We do not have any reason to doubt God’s Word just because we cannot understand the mysteries of His creative power. In the world we see and touch we are always surrounded with mysteries that we cannot understand. The very simplest form of life is something that the wisest of philosophers are unable to explain. Everywhere are wonders beyond our reach. Since this is true should we be surprised to find that in the spiritual world there are also mysteries that we cannot understand? The problem lies only in how weak and narrow the human mind is. In the Scriptures God has given us plenty of signs to show their godly character. We are not to doubt His Word because we cannot understand all the mysteries of His ruling power.

The apostle Peter says “things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest . . . unto their own destruction.” Because they don’t understand Scripture, many unbelievers use this to argue against the Bible. But what is true is that they have strong proof of it being divinely inspired. If the Bible and what it says about God could all be understood, if His greatness and glory could be comprehended by our limited minds; then, the Bible would not carry the unmistakable mark of coming from Heaven. The very richness and mystery of the topics that are revealed should bring us to a deeper faith in it as the Word of God.

(4) WHY DOES THE WISDOM OF THIS WORLD FAIL TO GIVE UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE?

1 Corinthians 2:14

What to Do With Doubt

Related Texts: 1 Corinthians 2:12, 13; Matthew 13:11; John 3:6; 8:43; 16:13; 14:26; Proverbs 14:6; Romans 8:5, 6

The Bible reveals truth to the reader by providing a simple and a perfect fit to the needs and desires of our heart. This has amazed and charmed the smartest minds, but at the same time it shows the humble and unlearned the way to be saved. And yet these truths, told in a simple manner, are at the same time subjects so great, so far-reaching, so far beyond the power of our human minds to understand, that we can accept them only because God has said it is so. In this way God's plan to save us is shown. These truths are revealed so that every one of us may see the steps we should take in admission and sorrow for sin. They show the faith we must have in Jesus. By knowing these steps we may be saved in God's way. Underneath these truths that are so easily understood lie secret things that are hiding His glory. These secret things are overpowering to our mind as we study, but still fill us with respect and faith when we are really looking for truth. The more we search the Bible, the deeper is our belief that it is the Word of the living God. Our human thoughts begin to understand these great truths that heaven has revealed.

To say that we cannot fully understand the great truths of the Bible is only to admit that our limited minds are not able to grasp the unlimited. It is just saying that man, with his limited human knowledge, cannot fully understand the plan of God.

(5) WHAT ARE WE WARNED TO KEEP FROM ENTERING OUR HEARTS?

Hebrews 3:12

Related Texts: Hebrews 3:19; 10:38; Matthew 13:58; 17:20; Mark 9:24; Romans 3:3, 4; 11:20

The doubter and the unbelievers deny God's Word because they cannot grasp all its secrets. And all who claim to believe the Bible are not free from this same danger. The apostle warns us in the above verse about this. It is good to study closely the things the Bible teaches and to search into "the deep things of God" as far as they are shown to us in Scripture. 1 Corinthians 2:10. Satan will do his best to cause us to question things. Some people let pride get involved when trying to consider Bible truth. They feel impatient and defeated if they cannot explain every part of the Bible the way they would like to. It is too humiliating for them to admit that they do not understand the inspired words of God. They are unwilling to wait patiently until God sees fit to show the truth to them. They feel that their human wisdom alone is enough for them to be able to understand the Scriptures, and because of this they are denying its power. It is true that many of the theories and doctrines that are popular to believe are supposed to have come from the Bible but are not based on what it teaches. They even go against inspiration. These things have been a cause of doubt and confusion to many minds. This doubt cannot be blamed on God's Word, but rather on man's changing of it.

(6) WHY WILL WE NEVER BE ABLE TO FULLY UNDERSTAND GOD?

Deuteronomy 29:29

Related Texts: Romans 11:33, 34; Daniel 2:22; Matthew 13:35; Acts 1:7

If it were possible for us as created beings to be able to fully understand God and everything He does; then, once we reached that point, there would be no more truth for us to discover. There would be nothing else to learn, and no

further need for our mind and heart to mature. God would no longer be exalted, and if we could reach the limit of learning and fulfillment, we would no longer improve. We should thank God that it is not that way. God is without limit, in Him are “all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:3. Throughout eternity we will always be searching, always learning, and still we will never find all the treasures of His wisdom, His goodness, and His power.

(7) WHERE ONLY CAN GODLY WISDOM BE OBTAINED?

1 Corinthians 2:12

Related Texts: James 1:5; Romans 8:1, 5, 6; 2 Corinthians 4:4; John 16:14, 15; 1 John 2:20, 27; 5:20

In this life the truths of His Word shall always be unfolding to His people. There is only one way in which this wisdom can be obtained. We can gain an understanding of God’s Word only by the same source the Word was given—by the Holy Spirit showing it to us. “The things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God;” “the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.” 1 Corinthians 2:11, 10.

(8) WHAT WILL WE DISCOVER WHEN WE ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GUIDE US AS WE STUDY?

John 16:13

Related Texts: John 14:17, 26; 15:6; 8:32; 7:16-18; 1 John 4:6

God wants us to use our ability to think, and as we study the Bible it will

strengthen and lift up our minds like nothing else can. Yet we should remember that our reasoning is affected by our human weakness and feebleness. We should always be pleading with the Holy Spirit to open our minds to the Scriptures. We have to have the simple faith of a child and be ready to learn or we will not understand even the plainest truths. We should be humbled because we sense the power and wisdom of God, and because we can’t understand His greatness. We should open His Word in the same way we would enter His presence, with holy reverence, and our reason must admit that God’s power is greater than our own. When we come to the Bible, our heart and mind must bow to the great I AM.

(9) WHO IS OUR SOURCE OF WISDOM?

James 1:5

Related Texts: James 1:17; 3:17; Job 28:12-28; Proverbs 3:5-7; 9:4-6; 2:3-11; Matthew 7:7-11

There are many things that appear to be difficult or unclear, but God will make plain and simple to those who look for understanding with His help. But without the help of the Holy Spirit we will always be in danger of coming to the wrong understanding or losing interest in the Scriptures altogether. Many times the Bible is read and nothing is gained; in fact, it ends with negative results. Doubt grows stronger when the Word of God is opened without respect and without prayer. If our thoughts and our love are not fixed upon God or in tune with His will, our mind will be clouded with doubts. The enemy takes control of the thoughts and he tries to lead us to an understanding of God’s Word that is not true. If we are not trying

What to Do With Doubt

to be in tune with God in both the words we say and the things we do, then no matter how smart we are we will likely misunderstand the Scriptures. When someone is in that condition it is not safe to trust what they say about the Bible. Those who look in the Scriptures to find things that they think are wrong, are not being guided by the Holy Spirit. Since they don't see clearly they will see many reasons for doubt and unbelief in things that are really plain and simple.

(10) IF WE BLATANTLY CONTINUE IN KNOWN SIN, HOW DOES THIS AFFECT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

Isaiah 59:2

Related Texts: Isaiah 57:17; Proverbs 15:29; Jeremiah 5:25; Deuteronomy 31:17, 18; 32:20; Ezekiel 39:24; Micah 3:4

Many people try hard to hide it, but in most cases the love of sin is the real reason they have doubts and have questions about spiritual things. The direction given in God's Word is not welcomed by the proud, sin-loving heart who is not willing to obey what it says but are ready to doubt its authority. In order for us to find truth, we really must want to know the truth and be willing in our heart to obey it. All who come to study the Bible in this way will find more than enough evidence that it is God's Word. When they look they will gain an understanding of its truths that will make them wise unto salvation.

(11) WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE BEFORE REVEALING NEW LIGHT TO US?

John 7:17

Related Texts: John 8:31, 32; Psalm 119:10, 101, 102; Micah 4:2; Acts 17:11

Instead of questioning and finding fault about the things you don't understand, live according to the light that already shines upon you, and then you will receive greater light. By the grace of Christ, do every thing that you understand to be right and then you will be able to understand and do those things about which you are now in doubt.

The proof that comes from experience is there for all to have from the most highly educated to the least educated. God invites us to prove for ourselves how real His Word is and see the truth of His promises. He invites us to "taste and see that the Lord is good." Psalm 34:8. Instead of depending on what someone else tells us, we are to taste for ourselves. He tells us, "Ask, and ye shall receive." John 16:24. His promises will happen as He says. They have never failed and they never can fail. As we draw near to Jesus and praise Him in the fullness of His love, our doubt and darkness will disappear in the light of His presence.

(12) AS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS DEVELOPS, WHAT WILL BE OUR TESTIMONY?

Colossians 1:13

Related Texts: Ephesians 5:7-9; 1 Peter 2:9; 1 John 2:8; Romans 6:20-22; 4:20, 21; Titus 3:3-7

The apostle Paul says that God "hath delivered us from the power of darkness," and everyone who has passed from death unto life is able to "set to his seal that God is true." Colossians 1:13, John 3:33. He can say, "I needed help and I found it in Jesus. Everything I needed was given and the hunger of my soul was satisfied. Now the Bible reveals Jesus Christ to me. Do you ask why I believe in Jesus? Because

He is to me a Holy Saviour. Why do I believe the Bible? Because I have found it to be the voice of God speaking to my soul." We can show others that God's Word is true and that Jesus is the Son of God by keeping it in our hearts. We know that we are not following cleverly devised stories.

(13) WHEN WE FOLLOW THE LIGHT THAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN, WHAT EFFECT WILL IT HAVE ON OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY?

2 Peter 3:17, 18

Related Texts: Luke 24:32; Psalm 92:12; Hosea 14:1-7; Malachi 4:2; Ephesians 4:15; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; 1 Peter 2:2-5

Peter encourages his brethren to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." When the people of God are growing in grace, they will always be getting a clearer understanding of His Word. They will sense new light and beauty in its holy truths. This has been true in the history of the church through all ages, and it will be the same way to the end. "The path of the righteous is as the light of dawn, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Proverbs 4:18.

(14) HOW DOES THIS VERSE DESCRIBE OUR FUTURE ABILITY TO COMPREHEND THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD?

1 Corinthians 13:12

Related Texts: 1 Corinthians 6:3; 15:52; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 8:18; 1 John 3:2; Revelation 20:4

By faith we may look to the future and accept the promise of God that He will help us to grow in wisdom and cause our human strength to come together with His. Every power of our soul will be brought into touch with the Source of light. We may give praise that everything that has troubled us is under the power of God and He will make it clear to us. For things that we find hard to understand we will find an answer, and where our limited minds find only confusion and broken purposes, we shall see the most perfect and beautiful harmony.

I realize that in the final days of earth's history many will be skeptical of God. I choose to base my faith on the evidences He has provided and believe in Him.

Circle: Yes Undecided

It is comforting to me to know that God's wisdom cannot be understood by any man. I can place my life in His hands knowing He is in control of all things.

Circle: Yes Undecided

I realize that even though I cannot understand all that the Bible says about God, this is even more proof of His greatness. It is evident that the Bible is inspired by Him.

Circle: Yes Undecided

I choose to put away all doubts that the Tempter plants in my mind concerning God and His Word. I choose to follow the light as God sees fit to reveal it to me.

Circle: Yes Undecided