

REHOBOTH OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

Devotionals for 21 Day Fast

OWN THE PURSUIT

DAY 3: Tuesday, January 18th—Help my Unbelief

In Pursuit of God in Doubt

²⁴ 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." ²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." ²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Many voices are calling for our attention, pulling and stretching in various directions. At times we become conflicted, or confused and questions arise. Too often these demands challenge our allegiance to the Christian faith that we doubt elements of our faith. This struggle is so fierce we hide our doubts and pretend all is well. While deep within, we are either hoping no one finds out; or our secret is exposed and we are rescued from the monstrous situation.

The stories in John 20:24-29 and Mark 9:24 reveal the father of the son whom Jesus healed, and Thomas outwardly declaring, Lord I believe but I have doubts, I am in conflict. Both men needed more evidence from Jesus before they could believe. Jesus responded to their honest cry for help with grace and dignity. He "Invites you to seek Him with the same kind of honesty and grow in understanding the nature of your doubts."¹ He will answer your questions.

1. *Do you have doubts about your faith?*
2. *What areas of your faith you are unsure about?*
3. *Do you want to grow in your faith?*
4. *How can you flesh out the uncertainties and stand firm in faith?*

THE SOLUTION FOR DOUBT IS TO SEE THAT GOD WILL DO WHAT HE SAYS HE WILL DO.

Notice the bookends of this Psalm: God is good and He is your God.

When Self Doubt Creeps In

Keep these bible verses from Psalm 118 close by

1. **God is Good** ~ Psalm 118:1
2. **His faithful love endures for forever** ~ Psalm 118:1-4
3. **He can set you free** ~ Psalm 118:5
4. **God is for you** ~ Psalm 118:6, 7
5. **He will help you** ~ Psalm 118:7
6. **God is a refuge** ~ Psalm 118:8, 9
7. **The authority of the Lord is in you** ~ Psalm 118:10-12

8. **God rescues us** ~ Psalm 118:13
9. **God rescues us** ~ Psalm 118:13
10. **He is your strength** ~ Psalm 118:14
11. **The Lord gives victory** ~ Psalm 118:14, 21
12. **He does glorious things** ~ Psalm 118:15, 16
13. **God shines upon you** ~ Psalm 118:27

God's word is true and wonderful, full of promises from a God that is good and whose love endures forever. These truths are from ONE Psalm alone.

²⁴ Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

Mark 9:24

TAKE OFF THE FIG LEAVES

**Submitted by
Rev. Norman Clayton**

LIFE APPLICATION

*WE ARE A NEW CREATION,
BUT THE RENEWAL THAT
HAPPENS IN OUR LIVES
DOESN'T HAPPEN ALL AT
ONCE*

*We must take intentional steps
to change—knowing all the time
that God is at work in us*

*Deliberate discipline of change
and growth and maturity isn't
an optional extra for Christians*

Devotional Text

**Colossians 2:2, 2Timothy 2:15
Hebrews 6:11, 10:22**

Discussion Questions

1. How can you discern whether a person's doubts are honest questions or a smokescreen for his sin?
2. What issues or questions cause you the most doubt? Why?
3. Is it doubting to pray, "If it be Your will"? Why/why not?
4. Faith is not a leap in the dark; it is based on solid evidence. How can we know when we're demanding too much evidence?

God
Designed me.
Created me.
Blesses me.
Heals me.
Defends me.
Forgives me.
Loves me.

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