

**The 4th Sunday of Easter ~ Sunday, May 7, 2017**  
**“Beyond the Tomb: Dealing with the Doubt Virus”**  
**John 20:19-31**

We all have \_\_\_\_\_ and fears—and when faced with \_\_\_\_\_, adversity, and hardship—we too can struggle to \_\_\_\_\_.

No one has \_\_\_\_\_ faith.

Thomas shows us the difference between \_\_\_\_\_ faith and \_\_\_\_\_—between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ faith isn't perfect faith—it isn't flawless faith without doubts and fears—it's a faith that accepts Jesus as its \_\_\_\_\_. And while the expression of that faith may stumble, it never loses sight of \_\_\_\_\_.

“I believe Lord, help my unbelief.” (Mark 9:24)

Is this something that you can relate to—the tension between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_?

The reality is, there is a spiritual virus that's been going around Christian circles for centuries—called the \_\_\_\_\_—and if you haven't caught it, chances are, you will at some point or another.

So the issue isn't whether or not we're going to catch the doubt virus, it's \_\_\_\_\_? How do we treat this virus—how do we prevent it from \_\_\_\_\_ our faith?

**THREE QUESTIONS ABOUT DOUBT & FAITH**

**Question #1.** \_\_\_\_\_?

**3 MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT DOUBT**

• **Doubt is the opposite of \_\_\_\_\_.**

The opposite of faith is not doubt, but \_\_\_\_\_.

Unbelief is a \_\_\_\_\_ refusal to believe; a \_\_\_\_\_ decision to \_\_\_\_\_ God and not have faith; a \_\_\_\_\_ of heart, often having its root in \_\_\_\_\_ or a spirit of \_\_\_\_\_.

Doubt is being \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ about a specific issue;

it's being caught between certainty and \_\_\_\_\_. You can have a \_\_\_\_\_ faith and still have doubts.

“Christ never failed to distinguish between doubt and unbelief. Doubt is I can't believe; unbelief is I won't believe. Doubt is honest; unbelief is stubbornness. Doubt is looking for light; unbelief is being content with darkness.”

Struggling with God over the issues of life doesn't show a lack of faith—it is \_\_\_\_\_.

A strong faith is often expressed by \_\_\_\_\_ talking to God about the issues that are foremost in our hearts and our minds, and \_\_\_\_\_ our doubts and fears with Him.

• **Doubt is an \_\_\_\_\_ sin.**

God doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ us when we question Him—He's always \_\_\_\_\_ and abounding in steadfast love.

A great example of this is \_\_\_\_\_. John may have been a tad eccentric, but he was a man of \_\_\_\_\_ faith.

However, Luke tells us that after Herod \_\_\_\_\_ him, John comes down with a bad case of the doubt virus, and so he sends his followers to ask Jesus point blank; “Are you the Messiah?” (Luke 7:19)

Jesus doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ John for his doubts, but rather gives him what he \_\_\_\_\_ in that moment.

“I say to you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John.” (Luke 7:28)

Our doubt doesn't effect our \_\_\_\_\_ with God, nor His love for us. God's shoulders are broad enough to handle or doubts—and He wants us to share them with him—that's what \_\_\_\_\_ is all about.

• **Doubt is \_\_\_\_\_.**

Doubt can produce some \_\_\_\_\_ side effects if we take the proper steps to \_\_\_\_\_ it.

If we respond by seeking \_\_\_\_\_ to our questions when we're infected with doubt, we not only emerge with our faith \_\_\_\_\_, we also have the \_\_\_\_\_ to deal with other doubts in the future.

“Be merciful to those who doubt.” (Jude 1:22)

However, doubt can also be \_\_\_\_\_, and if left \_\_\_\_\_, can do great deal of damage to our faith.

**How do you view doubt? What has been your experience with this virus?**

**Question #2.** \_\_\_\_\_?

In order to treat the doubt virus, we need to know what \_\_\_\_\_ it.

#### 4 CAUSES OF THE DOUBT VIRUS

• **Doubt often gains a foothold through our \_\_\_\_\_.**

Doubts can quickly take a foot hold in our minds if we don't know what we

\_\_\_\_\_.

• **Doubt can breed in our \_\_\_\_\_.**

Some people have a faith that's built on \_\_\_\_\_.

However, emotional highs never last and when the good feelings fade, they begin to \_\_\_\_\_.

Our faith isn't fundamentally about \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_—it is a \_\_\_\_\_ decision of the \_\_\_\_\_ to follow Jesus—in good times and bad.

• **Doubt can enter through our \_\_\_\_\_.**

Doubt can come in through a point of \_\_\_\_\_.

Sometimes this happens when we choose to live in a way that we know to be \_\_\_\_\_; when we continue in a sinful or \_\_\_\_\_ behaviour; or refuse to give \_\_\_\_\_ of our lives to God.

When we harbour a sinful pattern in our life or keep something back from God, we become \_\_\_\_\_ of God and we can try to \_\_\_\_\_ from Him. And because of the distance we've created, we begin to \_\_\_\_\_ that God loves or is even there.

• **Doubt can enter our \_\_\_\_\_ when we've been hurt by the \_\_\_\_\_—when people don't live what they profess to \_\_\_\_\_.**

**How has doubt entered into your life?**

**Question #3.** \_\_\_\_\_?

#### DISPELLING OUR DOUBTS & STRENGTHENING OUR FAITH

**F**ind the \_\_\_\_\_ of our doubt.

Don't just do it on the \_\_\_\_\_ level—go deep and ask the \_\_\_\_\_ questions of yourself.

People can use \_\_\_\_\_ questions to keep God at arm's length—to \_\_\_\_\_ the real issue which is simply fear or pride. Be \_\_\_\_\_ as you analyze the source.

**A**sk for \_\_\_\_\_.

“You do not have because you do not ask.” (James 4:2)

We need to ask God for help, not as a last resort, but as a first \_\_\_\_\_; we also need to ask other \_\_\_\_\_.

**I**mplement a course of \_\_\_\_\_.

• If doubt has obtained a foothold through your mind, be \_\_\_\_\_; write out a list of your \_\_\_\_\_ and then deal with them one by one.

• If doubt has gained a foothold through your emotions, sit down with someone you \_\_\_\_\_ and deal with those issues that keep you from experiencing \_\_\_\_\_ life. Do the work of \_\_\_\_\_.

• If it's a question of your will, you need to ask yourself; “What habits, addictions, sins, or \_\_\_\_\_ are separating me from God? Or What am I \_\_\_\_\_ back from God?”

**T**ake care of your \_\_\_\_\_ health.

When we \_\_\_\_\_ our faith, when we feed our faith with appropriate material, and when we rest in God, our faith grows \_\_\_\_\_, so that when doubts come, they can't take a foothold and destroy our faith.

We need to read God's word \_\_\_\_\_ if we want to be spiritually strong and have a healthy faith.

**H**old your remaining questions in \_\_\_\_\_.

We cannot fully understand an \_\_\_\_\_ God, and there's going to be some \_\_\_\_\_ that we're going to have to wait to get a full and complete answer to. All we can do is hang on to the \_\_\_\_\_.

Knowing the \_\_\_\_\_ of God can help us keep some of our peripheral questions and doubts in abeyance.

**Do you need to try one of these methods as a cure for doubt?**



“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet still believe.” (John 20:29)