

The 3rd Sunday of Easter ~ Sunday, April 26, 2020

“More Than Conquerors: Victory Over Doubt”

John 20:24-31

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 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

Find 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.

Ask for _____.

We need to ask God for help, not as a last resort, but as a first _____;

We also need to ask other _____. That's why small _____ and Bible studies are so important.

Implement 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?"

Take 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.

Hold 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)