



Want To Get The Doubt Out?

"Now we see things imperfectly as in a poor mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity..." 1 Corinthians 13:12

Do you remember Asaph in the psalms? For a while he saw things imperfectly. In Psalm 77 his faith was really wavering as he felt very discouraged, and after listing his doubts, he posed this question: *"Has God forgotten to be kind? Has he slammed the door on his compassion?"* (v.9-10 nlt).

Talk about feeling down. He was, but suddenly Asaph paused and said: *"I recall all you have done, O Lord; I remember your wonderful deeds of long ago. They are constantly in my thoughts. I cannot stop thinking about them. O God, your ways are holy. Is there any god as mighty as you? You are the God of miracles and wonders! You demonstrate your awesome power among the nations"* (vv.10-14). It's because God cares about the people in every nation just like He cares about you!

There can be those times when our minds are in doubt, times when we ask what our faith is about; but we can believe Him, we know that He cares for our God is real, as the Bible declares. —Fitzhugh

Man, the very choice to get brutally honest with God and simply to remember—this obviously revived Asaph's faith. God loves to hear us get real with Him. You should try it! We are so quick to forget what the Word says and the specific things the Word has done to help us in answer to our prayers in the past. Doing this will revive your faith today as well.

I just love to read the rest of this great psalm! Asaph recounted to God: *"You have redeemed your people by your strength, the descendants of Jacob and of Joseph by your might. Your road led through the sea, your pathway through the mighty waters—a pathway no one knew was there! You led your people along that road like a flock of sheep, with Moses and Aaron as their shepherds"* (vv. 15-20). Remembering God's goodness—that's the cure for us in getting the doubt out.

When faith grows weak and doubts arise, recall God's love and tender care; remind yourself of all He's done and of those times He answered prayer. —De Haan

Oswald Chambers was right in saying, *“Doubt is not always a sign that a man is wrong. It may be a sign that he is thinking.”* God wants you to think, to consider your ways, to ponder—the devil doesn’t. The enemy of your soul would rather you just retain your doubts longer—you know, just get lost in eight hours of banal amusement on TV.

But remember that there is a big difference between doubt and unbelief. Doubt is a matter of the mind. Unbelief is a matter of the heart. Doubt is when we cannot really understand what God is doing and why He is doing it. Unbelief is when we refuse to believe what God’s Word says and we subsequently fail to do what He tells us to do. Unbelief is disobedience and it leads to more of the same. We mustn’t confuse the two.

**When you are deeply troubled by fear and inward doubt,
strive to do what pleases God, and He will lead you out. —Lloyd**

***Why are you cast down, O my soul? ...Hope in God;
for I shall yet praise Him. —Ps. 42:11***

Do you remember the disciples on the road to Emmaus and how downcast they were? In their minds, Jesus Christ had failed them. He also failed in His mission and was crucified instead. Things somehow swerved wildly out of God’s control, it seemed. But then Jesus came and joined them on that road of discouragement and He began to speak to them of truth. In the end, they said, *“Didn’t our hearts feel strangely warm as He talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?”* (Lk. 24:32). The Lord tenderly dealt with their doubts through His Word and Spirit. And that’s how it can be for you today! God will deal with your doubt through His Word as you read and pray. Get really serious and pray a violent, fervent prayer. Get serious about feeding your faith and starving your doubts. Starve your addictions to death as well. Get on your knees and fight like a man! Refuse to be lukewarm and distracted. And listen, when you are facing doubt head-on, that is certainly not the time to close-up the Bible. That is the time to open it and let God speak to you as you pour out your heart to Him.

**God understands your heartache, He knows the bitter pain;
O trust Him in the darkness, you cannot trust in vain. —Smith**

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Lord, when You are beyond my understanding and I just don’t get it... have You turned Your back on the whole world? The answer is a thousand times, NO! He hasn’t forgotten. The Bible says, *“God sits on His holy throne”* (Ps. 47:8) and *“rules by His power forever”* (66:7).

In the Bible we have many examples of people who went through times of doubt only to come to a deeper understanding of who God is and what He purposes. Perhaps you have been doubting God’s good dealings with you in your life. Maybe a lot has gone wrong and people have been cruel. Maybe a lot of time has passed and you have been asking “why” a lot lately. Maybe His timing doesn’t seem to make any sense. Does it seem like God is late? Voltaire said, *“Doubt is uncomfortable, certainty is ridiculous.”* But Paul in

the Bible said, ***“All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God knows me now”*** (1 Cor. 13:12 nlt). Keep forgiving and things will be totally resolved on that final day when we stand before God. You and I in Christ, will know as we have been known. Right now though, God doesn't ask us to understand everything. Jesus merely asks us to trust Him and obey. He doesn't ask us to follow Christians—He wants us to follow Him and stay in fellowship with Christians.

In His strong Love,
kurt

PS We are happy to announce that our second son, Nathan, will be getting married to his girlfriend Ms. Holly Hooper this summer. Of course he is elated about this. Holly is a wonderful, growing Christian and we just love them both. We are so happy and rejoice with them. We wish them all the best in the Lord. Please pray that God will guide Nathan in preparing for this important occasion and beyond the wedding too. Thanks. If you have time, there are some pictures of both of them in the “Nathan Michael” file at the bottom of my webpage:
www.katanapg.com/profile/kwv1210

PS2: When you get the time, you'll love reading the Bible verses (above) in their context. We all have so many emails these days and you might want to cutback. If you would like not to receive periodic updates from us, then we totally understand. Just reply to this email with “CXL” in the subject line.

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I will remember the works of the Lord. --Psalm 77:11

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. --Hebrews 11:1

At times sin's power within grows strong,
Too strong, it seems, for us to bear;
But Jesus says, "Look unto Me.
I broke sin's power, so don't despair." —D. De Haan

Asaph, in Psalm 73, comments that he almost slipped because of doubt (v. 2-3), but the psalm ends with his affirmation, "I have put my trust in the Lord God."

Church history reveals the same pattern.

Martin Luther in 1527 was paralyzed by depression and doubt: "I was close to the gates of death and hell. I trembled in all my members. Christ was wholly lost. I was shaken by desperation and blasphemy of God."

Yet he could also write: "If God hides himself in the storm clouds which brood over the brow of Sinai, then gather about the manger, look upon the infant Jesus as he leaps in the lap of his mother and know that the hope of the world is here. Or again if Christ and God seem unapproachable, then look upon the heavens and marvel at the work of God. Or take the smallest flower and see in the smallest petal the handiwork of God."

John Calvin struggled with doubt: "Since salvation is by faith alone, then not sin but doubt of which anxiety is the immediate consequence are the most terrible adversaries of every Christian, even the most faithful."

"Everyone of us knows only too well from his own experiences our difficulty in believing. . . . The saints frequently stagger from unbelief.

Voltaire said, "Doubt is uncomfortable, certainty is ridiculous."

"To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket- safe, dark, motionless, airless--it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable."

C.S. Lewis

There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, "All right, then, have it your way"

C.S. Lewis

"You don't have a soul. You are a Soul. You have a body." C.S. Lewis

"What you see and hear depends a good deal on where you are standing; it also depends on what kind of a person you are" C.S. Lewis

"Miracles are a retelling in small letters of the very same story which is written across the whole world in letters too large for some of us to see."

C.S. Lewis

"Though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not."

Emogirl C.S. Lewis

“If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.”
C.S. Lewis

There is no time for doubt today.

Have Kurt's fishing devos blessed you? Click on the "Contact" button and let him know!

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