

DON'T LET YOUR DOUBTS DEFEAT YOU!

Encouraging Words from God's Word

2 Cor. 4:8-9

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (GN) *"We are often troubled, but not crushed; sometimes in doubt, but never in despair; there are many enemies, but we are never without a friend, and though we badly hurt at times, we are not destroyed."*

I. THREE THINGS THAT CAUSE US TO DOUBT GOD

1. **CRITICS**

"They scoff at God . . . How proudly they speak! And so God's people are dismayed and confused and drink it all in. 'Does God realize what is going on?' they ask." Psalm 73:8-11 (LB)

". . . again and again they scoff, 'Where is that God of yours?' But O my soul, don't be discouraged. Don't be upset. Expect God to act!" Psalm 42:10-11 (LB)

2. **CONSCIENCE**

". . . For some people have disobeyed their consciences and have deliberately done what they knew was wrong. It isn't surprising that soon they lost their faith in Christ, after defying God like that." 1 Tim. 1:19 (LB)

3. **CIRCUMSTANCES**

Example: The storm on Lake Galilee (Mark 4:35-41)

"Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

II. HOW TO DEAL WITH YOUR DOUBTS

1. **ADMIT YOUR DOUBTS**

Example: John the Baptist

"When John heard in prison . . . what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who has come or should we expect someone else?' Matt. 11:2-3

Thomas (John 20:24-29)

Jude 1:22 "Be merciful to those who doubt."

2. **DOUBT YOUR DOUBTS**

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." Prov. 3:5

3. **BEGIN WITH THE FAITH YOU ALREADY HAVE**

"Lord, I do believe, help me overcome my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24)

"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, . . . nothing will be impossible for you." Matt. 17:20