

The Facts of Spiritual Life – Part 3

The Weight of Doubt

Therefore, since we are surrounded by **such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down**, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.
Hebrews 12:1 (NLT)

How much more do I need to say? It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets.
Hebrews 11:32 (NLT)

When all kinds of trials and temptations crowd into your lives my brothers, don't resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends! Realise that they come to test your faith and to produce in you the quality of endurance. But let the process go on until that endurance is fully developed, and you will find you have become men of mature character with the right sort of independence. And if, in the process, any of you does not know how to meet any particular problem he has only to ask God—who gives generously to all men without making them feel foolish or guilty—and he may be quite sure that the necessary wisdom will be given him. **But he must ask in sincere faith without secret doubts as to whether he really wants God's help or not. The man who trusts God, but with inward reservations, is like a wave of the sea, carried forward by the wind one moment and driven back the next. That sort of man cannot hope to receive anything from God, and the life of a man of divided loyalty will reveal instability at every turn.**
James 1:2-8 (Phillips)

Have you been led astray, too?" the Pharisees mocked. **"Is there a single one of us rulers or Pharisees who believes in him? This foolish crowd follows him, but they are ignorant of the law. God's curse is on them!"**
John 7:47-49 (NLT)

Jesus told them, This is the only work God wants from you: **Believe in the one he has sent.**" They answered, **Show us a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What can you do?**
John 6:29-30 (NLT)

But soon it was time for the Jewish Festival of Shelters, and Jesus' brothers said to him, Leave here and go to Judea, where your followers can see your miracles! **You can't become famous if you hide like this! If you can do such wonderful things, show yourself to the world!**" For even his brothers didn't believe in him.
John 7:2-5 (NLT)

The disciples said, Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!" They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died. So he told them plainly, Lazarus is dead. And for your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there, for now you will really believe. Come, let's go see him." **Thomas, nicknamed the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, Let's go, too—and die with Jesus.**"
John 11:12-16 (NLT)

Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. And you know the way to where I am going." **"No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?"**
John 14:1-5 (NLT)

Jesus told him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life.** No one can come to the Father except through me."
John 14:6 (NLT)

Pilate said, "So you are a king?" Jesus responded, "You say I am a king. Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true." **"What is truth?"** Pilate asked. Then he went out again to the people and told them, "He is not guilty of any crime."
John 18:37-38 (NLT)

Pilate saw that he wasn't getting anywhere and that a riot was developing. So he sent for a bowl of water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood. **The responsibility is yours!**"
Matthew 27:24 (NLT)

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 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." 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!" 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.**" Thomas said to him, My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."
John 20:24-29 (NIV)