

The Year Of Following Jesus

#137 How Much Doubt Is Too Much?

August 5, 2024

“Doubt isn't the opposite of **FAITH**; it is an element of **FAITH**.”

When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. “What are you arguing with them about?” he asked.

—Mark 9:14-16 (NLT)

Random Observations On Faith & Doubt

Pistos= Faith; Belief; Trust; Commitment.

1. Belief Is Complicated.

2. Belief Isn't Only About What I Think Is True.

3. Belief Can't Be Separated From What I Do.

4. Faith/Belief ≠ Absolute Certainty.

- *Jesus said to them, "You faithless people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."*

—Mark 9:19 (NLT)

- *Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with his disciples, they asked him, "Why couldn't we cast out that evil spirit?" Jesus replied, "This kind can be cast out only by prayer."*

—Mark 9:28-29 (NLT)

- *A group of Jews was traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus in their incantation, saying, "I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!" Seven sons of Sceva, a leading priest, were doing this. But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, "I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?" Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered.*

—Acts 19:13-16 (NLT)

- *Then Jesus gave the Twelve their chance: "Do you also want to leave?" Peter replied, "Master, to whom would we go? You have the words of real life, eternal life. We've already committed ourselves.*

—John 6:67-69 (MES)

- *The righteous will live by faith.*

—Romans 1:17 (NIV)

5. My Certainty Will Ebb & Flow.

- *So they brought the boy. But when the evil spirit saw Jesus, it threw the child into a violent convulsion, and he fell to the ground, writhing and foaming at the mouth. “How long has this been happening?” Jesus asked the boy’s father. He replied, “Since he was a little boy. The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him.”*

—Mark 9:20-22 (NLT)

- *Peter, suddenly bold, said, “Master, if it’s really you, call me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come ahead.” Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus.*

—Matthew 14:28-29 (MSG)

** But when he looked down at the waves churning beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and started to sink. He cried, “Master, save me!”*

—Matthew 14:29-30 (MSG)

6. God Works With Amateurs.

- *But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.*

—Mark 9:22 (NIV)

- *“What do you mean, ‘If I can’?” Jesus asked. “Anything is possible if a person believes.”*

—Mark 9:23 (NLT)

- *I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!*

—Mark 9:24 (NLT)

Follow Through Step:

Spend some time reflecting on your own faith/belief/trust/commitment. Have you ever tried to summon up certainty? What would it mean for you to pray, “I believe Lord, help me with my unbelief”.