

HOW TO HANDLE DOUBT

MATTHEW 11:1-12

I. Meaning of Doubt

- A. Matthew 14:31 – Doubt – distazo – duplicate
- B. Matthew 21:21 – Doubt – diakrino – to separate thoroughly, to discriminate, to hesitate
- C. Luke 12:28 – Doubtful – meteorize – to raise in the air, to suspend
- D. Romans 14:1 – Doubtful – dialogismos – dialog – discussion – to take inventory against
- E. James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. 8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.
- F. Doubt is not Unbelief
 - 1. Doubt says, I can't believe. Unbelief says, I won't believe
 - 2. Doubt is looking for light. Unbelief is content with darkness.

II. Menace of Doubt

- A. Hall of Doubt
 - 1. Abraham – Genesis 12:9-20
 - 2. Gideon – Judges 6:33-40
 - 3. Peter – Matthew 14:30-31
 - 4. Thomas – John 20:24-29
 - 5. John the Baptist – Matthew 11:1-11
 - 6. Father of son with dumb spirit – Mark 9:20-27
 - 7. Elijah – 1 Kings 19:4-19
- B. Harassment of Doubt
 - 1. Distress – driven with the wind
 - 2. Dread – Psalm 73:14
 - 3. Dodge – tossed
 - a) Will of God
 - b) Blessings of God
 - 4. Distractions – he is unstable

III. Management of Doubt

- A. Face your doubts by asking honest questions
 - 1. John the Baptist never doubted the Word of God
 - a) Matthew 11:3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?
 - b) He knew Messiah was coming (because the scripture said He would). He wasn't sure about Jesus.
- B. Face your doubts by asking the right source
 - 1. John the Baptist went straight to Jesus
 - 2. Psalms 73:17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.
- C. Face your doubts by exercising Faith
 - 1. We do not need an absolute answer
 - 2. Mark 9:24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.
 - 3. Thomas – John 20:24-29
- D. Face your doubts by asking tough questions and taking it seriously
 - 1. A casual seeker will never find the answer – Matthew 6:33, Jeremiah 29:13
 - 2. Matthew 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.