



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis
May 19, 2013
Doubts & Answers

desert breeze community church

“What Should I Do With My Doubts?”

[John20:24-31]

I believe that the evidence surrounding the claims of Christianity is simply overwhelming & its message simply irresistible. But what if I still have doubts?

- 1) **The opposite of faith isn't doubt but unbelief.** vv27-29 Unbelief is a willful refusal to believe. Doubt is indecision between belief & unbelief. Doubt will ask sincere questions. Unbelief refuses to hear the answers. Jn3:19
- 2) **Faith is bringing your questions, doubts & fears to God.** v26 Thomas continues to hang with the disciples. The whole book of Psalms 10:1, 13:1-2
- 3) **Christianity is historical, evidential & factual beyond a reasonable doubt.** V25 The disciples told Thomas that they had seen the Lord--the Greek means that they kept telling him they had seen Jesus.
John the Baptist – Jn1:29; Mark 1:11; John 1:34 Luke 7:20, 22, 28
- 4) **It's not the size but the object of your faith that matters most.** V28 “My Lord and My God!” The Uncreated Creator & Sustainer of the Heavens & the Earth loves me & cares for me. Mark 9:23-24

- 5) **Get to know the object of your faith and your trust will grow.** How? Listen to the Apostles (vv25, 30-31; Rom10:17; 1Pet2:2-3). He knows your struggles with faith and is patient with you (V27). Look at His wounds for you (vv27-28; Rom5:8, 10; 8:31-32).
- 6) **You can reason to a point of probability but it takes commitment to lead to certainty.** V28 “My Lord and My God!” I must drop my conditions & seek Him with all of my heart. Heb11:6; Jer29:13



Growing

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- 1)** When have you been tempted to doubt God's existence? Or His greatness & goodness? Do you think faith & doubt can coexist? Explain.
- 2)** Read John20:24-31. What stands out to you from this story? What is the difference between doubt & unbelief & which one of these do you think Thomas is dealing with? What had the other disciples told Thomas (v24)? What did Jesus say about unbelief (Jn3:19)?
- 3)** Faith isn't the absence of questions, doubts and fears but bringing them to God. Explain. How is the book of Psalms a great example of this (Ps10:1, 13:1-2)? What does it mean that Christianity is historical, evidential & factual beyond a reasonable doubt?
- 4)** Why is the object of your faith more important than the size of your faith (Mark 9:23-24)? How can you get to know the object of your faith & how will that help your faith to grow (Vv30-31; Rom10:17; 1Pet2:2-3)?
- 5)** When Thomas saw the wounds of Jesus what was his response (v28)? What does that do for your faith when you look at Christ's wounds for you (Rom5:8, 10; 8:31-32)? What does it mean that you can reason to a point of probability but it takes commitment to lead to certainty (Heb.11:6; Jer20:13)? Pray.