



When Doubt Is
a Call to Examine,
Not to Fear

BOOK 2 – CHAPTER 01 – STUDY 09

When Doubt Is a Call to Examine, Not to Fear

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Please try to answer the following questions as best and truthful as you can.

1. Has your pastor ever said that questioning your salvation is a sin because it implies doubting God's promises?

2. Have you ever doubted your salvation? If so, what triggered those doubts?

Things are going the wrong way.

Feeling sins is continuous in our lives.

3. What do you think salvation really means, and how can someone know they have it?

4. Do you believe it's wrong or dangerous to question your faith? Why or why not?

5. When you hear someone say, "God promised..." do you ever wonder if those promises apply to you?

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6. How do you usually deal with spiritual doubts? Do you ignore them, pray, study, talk to others, or something else?

7. Have you ever read a Bible verse and thought, “That sounds good, but does it really apply to me?”

8. What do you think God requires from someone in order to receive His promises?

9. Do you rely more on your feelings or on God’s Word when it comes to knowing where you stand with Him?

10. What helps you feel closest to God? Prayer, worship, obedience, fellowship, or something else?

11. Have you ever felt unsure about whether you’re doing what God wants from you?

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Understanding Doubt and Salvation

It's normal for disciples to sometimes wonder if they're really saved. These doubts can come from personal struggles, confusion, Satan or even the Holy Spirit. But instead of being afraid of doubt, we can use it to grow closer to God and strengthen our faith, if we handle it the right way.

Why do doubts arise?

1. You're sensitive to sin, which may be a good thing, but it can make you feel unworthy. Being sensitive to sin and feeling unworthy is not a sign of failure, but of humility, reverence, and readiness for God's mercy. **Psalm 51:17** assures us that “**a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise**”.
 - a. **Isaiah 6:5 (KJV)** Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. Isaiah feels unworthy and sinful in the presence of God's holiness. This reveals a sensitive spirit awakened by a divine encounter.
 - b. **Luke 5:8 (KJV)** When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Christ' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. Peter, upon witnessing the miraculous power of Christ, is convicted of his own sinfulness and feels unworthy to be near Him.
2. You've gone through a dry or distant season with God. Even God's greatest servants experienced seasons of dryness, distance, or silence, yet those seasons often produced deeper faith, repentance, and a more intimate walk with God.
 - a. **Psalm 63:1 (KJV)** O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is. David expresses his thirst for God's presence during a spiritual wilderness.
 - b. **Psalm 13:1–2 (KJV)** How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? how long

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shall mine enemy be exalted over me? A cry from the heart of someone who feels forgotten and spiritually distant from God.

- c. **Lamentations 3:8, 17–18 (KJV)** Also when I cry and shout, he shutteth out my prayer. And thou hast removed my soul far off from peace: I forgat prosperity. And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the Lord. Jeremiah laments a season of great spiritual and emotional dryness, feeling as if his prayers are unheard.
- d. **Job 23:8–9 (KJV)** Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: Job speaks of a time when he cannot feel or see God's presence, though he knows God is still working.
- e. **Psalm 102:1–4 (KJV)** Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come unto thee. Hide not thy face from me in the day when I am in trouble; incline thine ear unto me: ...My heart is smitten, and withered like grass; so that I forget to eat my bread. A prayer in a season of grief, weariness, and spiritual drought.
- f. **Isaiah 59:1–2 (KJV)** Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. Sometimes distance from God is caused by sin, which must be acknowledged and repented of for restoration.
- g. **Micah 7:7–8 (KJV)** Therefore I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me. A declaration of hope in a dark or dry season, God still sees, hears, and will restore.

3. You're comparing your walk to others. There is a danger or foolishness of comparing ourselves or our spiritual walk with others. Scripture encourages humility, individual accountability, and a focus on our own relationship with God rather than on others.

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thirsty land, where no water is. David expresses his thirst for God's presence during a spiritual wilderness.

- b. Psalm 13:1–2 (KJV)** How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me? A cry from the heart of someone who feels forgotten and spiritually distant from God.
- c. Lamentations 3:8, 17–18 (KJV)** Also when I cry and shout, he shutteth out my prayer. And thou hast removed my soul far off from peace: I forsgat prosperity. And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the Lord. Jeremiah laments a season of great spiritual and emotional dryness, feeling as if his prayers are unheard.
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4. You're under spiritual attack, whether is an attack from Satan and unseen evil forces trying to destroy you or Spiritual trials and intervention by the Holy Spirit to purify and mature us. The difference between Satan and the Holy Spirit is purpose; destruction vs. sanctification.

- a. **Ephesians 6:11–12 (KJV)** Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. A direct warning about spiritual warfare and unseen evil forces.
- b. **1 Peter 5:8–9 (KJV)** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith... Satan is portrayed as actively seeking to attack and destroy all disciples.
- c. **Job 1:12 (KJV)** And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. God allowed Satan to test Job. This shows that spiritual attacks may occur even under God's sovereign permission.
- d. **2 Corinthians 12:7 (KJV)** And lest I should be exalted above measure... there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. Paul speaks of a persistent affliction allowed for humility, calling it a "messenger of Satan."
- e. **Luke 22:31–32 (KJV)** And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not... Christ reveals that Satan seeks to test and weaken disciples faith, but He intercedes for them.
- f. **Matthew 4:1 (KJV)** Then was Christ led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. The Holy Spirit led Christ into the wilderness, where He faced temptation. Sometimes God allows trials for strengthening.

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- g. **John 16:8 (KJV)** And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin, which can feel heavy, but it is meant to lead us to repentance, not condemnation.
- h. **Hebrews 12:6, 11 (KJV)** For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth... Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness... God disciplines us out of love, and though it may be painful, it brings spiritual growth.
- i. **Psalm 139:23–24 (KJV)** Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. A prayer of willingness to be searched and corrected by the Holy Spirit.

5. You may have started realizing that salvation may be deeper than many modern teachings portray and that there may be more to it than just believing/faith alone, or a simple prayer. Biblical salvation is not just a prayer or emotional moment. Doubts about shallow teachings can be a sign that the Holy Spirit is drawing you to a deeper, truer understanding of the gospel. To fully grasp this one, you will have to go through book 02 - chapter 01- study 08 “our feelings”, also book 03 - chapter 02 – study 01 “Love and obedience”, and book 03 – chapter 02- study 05 “Truth or deceit”.

6. Lack of God’s knowledge and Godly understanding. Lack of Godly knowledge brings separation, bondage and destruction.

- a. **Hosea 4:6 (KJV)** My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge. This verse clearly shows that ignorance, especially willful rejection of God's knowledge, leads to destruction and separation from God's blessing.
- b. **Proverbs 10:21 (KJV)** The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom. Lack of wisdom (applied knowledge) is a cause of death, especially spiritual or moral ruin.

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- c. **Isaiah 5:13 (KJV)** Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst. Ignorance led the people of God into bondage and ruin.
- d. **Proverbs 5:23 (KJV)** He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray. Neglecting instruction or correction leads to spiritual death and wandering away from truth.
- e. **Romans 10:2-3 (KJV)** For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. Paul describes how sincere zeal without proper understanding can result in rejection of God's true plan of salvation.
- f. **Proverbs 1:29-31 (KJV)** For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. Rejecting knowledge and wisdom leads to consequences of one's own misguided choices.

7. We lean unto our own understanding and not allow for us to receive God's understanding, and this leads to foolishness, spiritual blindness and destruction.

- a. **Proverbs 3:5–6 (KJV)** Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. This is the clearest warning against relying on human wisdom instead of trusting God. God promises guidance when we trust Him fully.
- b. **Proverbs 14:12 (KJV)** There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. What feels right to us may actually lead to spiritual or even physical destruction.
- c. **Jeremiah 17:9 (KJV)** The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? Human intuition and feelings are unreliable and can mislead us if we trust them over God's Word.

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- d. **Isaiah 5:21 (KJV)** Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! God warns of judgment upon those who consider themselves wise apart from Him.
- e. **Romans 1:21–22 (KJV)** Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, Relying on one's own reasoning without glorifying God leads to foolishness and spiritual blindness.
- f. **Isaiah 55:8–9 (KJV)** For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. A reminder that God's wisdom surpasses ours. Trusting in His perspective is far better than relying on our own.

8. A lack of faith and believing! This part is taken from the book 03 – chapter 02 – study 05 “Truth or deceit”.

There are many and I say many staggered (hesitant) and unfruitful brothers in Christ because of their lack of believing and Godly faith. **Romans 4:20**

- ★ A “**lack of faith**” is brought through the lack of **Godly understanding**. **2 Tim 3:16-16**
- ★ A lack of “**Godly understanding**” is because we lean to **our own understanding** instead of God’s understanding. **Prov 3:5, Prov 28:26.**
- ★ We lean to “**Our own understanding**” because of the lack of **Godly knowledge**. **Prov 3:5-6, Prov 10:13**
A lack of Godly knowledge brings death. **Hosea 4:6**
- ★ We have a “lack of “**Godly knowledge**” due to a lack of **studying the word of God**. **2 Tim 2:15**

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- ★ A “**lack of studying**” is because of plain laziness or of an overflow of **faith and trust to false teachings**, through the acceptance of the knowledge that the world gives through false teachers and false prophets. **Proverbs 24:32, James 4:17,**
- ★ A “**trust to false teachings**” because we listen to our **deceitful hearts** and run with it because it just feels right. Most do this without even taking their time to verify their teachings being disobedient to when God tell us to “TEST EVERY SPIRIT” whether is from Him or not. **1 John 4,**
- ★ A “**deceitful heart**” is because of a **lack of obedience**. Disobeying God’s commandments such us to study, test every spirit, to correct, be corrected, instruct, reproof, etc. **Matt 15:19, Mark 7:21, Luke 12:24, Luke 6:45.**

Lack of obedience! The exact same reason Adam and Eve got kicked out of the garden of eve. **Man’s first sin!**

So, it’s just another big circle on which all boils down to **DISOBEDIENCE**.

So, **a lack of faith is a lack of obedience!**

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How the Enemy Works

Satan is the accuser. He tries to make us feel like we're not good enough for God by reminding us of our past, making us compare ourselves to others, or making us question God's love. His main goal is to keep us away from salvation. If that doesn't work, and we attain salvation, then he will try to steal our peace and shake our trust in God while also keeping us busy, so we do not do the works he has called us to do. Works like helping others come to Christ and receive salvation.

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Other Reasons People Doubt

- Life struggles: Hard times and sin can make us feel unworthy.
- Not understanding the Bible: Misunderstanding God's promises leads to confusion.
- Spiritual battles: Doubt can be a part of the fight for your faith.
- Emotions: Feelings change, and can't be trusted as truth.

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Why Asking “Am I Really Saved?” Can Help You Grow

- Honest Self-Check: Are your actions matching your beliefs?
- The Bible Tells Us to Examine Ourselves (2 Cor. 13:5)
- Stronger Faith: Doubt can lead to deeper trust.
- Focus on Christ: Stop relying on your own good works.
- Spiritual Growth: You learn patience and truth.
- Understanding God's Will: You learn what He really wants from you.
- Real Confidence: You can gain peace and assurance.

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A Key Truth: Know What God Asks of Us

Reading about God's promises is good, but it's not enough. To receive those promises, we must also know and follow what God asks of us.

Examples:

- Forgiveness is promised, but we must confess and repent (1 John 1:9).
- Peace is promised, but we must keep our minds on God (Isaiah 26:3).
- Salvation is a gift, but it's for those who put their faith in Christ and obey Him (Hebrews 5:9).

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How to Work Through Doubts

People deal with spiritual doubts in different ways depending on their background, faith maturity, and support systems. Here are some common ways people tend to navigate spiritual doubts:

1. Prayer and Seeking God

- Many turn to prayer, asking God for clarity, reassurance, and increased faith.
- Examples: Praying like the man in Mark 9:24 “Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.”

2. Studying Scripture

- Doubt is often answered by truth. People often return to the Word of God to reaffirm God's promises and character.
- Verses that address doubt and assurance can provide comfort (e.g., James 1:5, Psalm 34:4).

3. Talking with a Trusted Mentor or Pastor

- Speaking with someone spiritually mature can offer guidance, perspective, and prayer support.
- Spiritual leaders can help clarify misunderstood teachings that may be the root of the doubt.

4. Reflecting on Personal Experiences with God

- Recalling past moments where God provided, answered prayer, or showed love can rekindle trust.
- Some keep journals or testimonies to revisit in times of doubt.

5. Wrestling Honestly

- Some believers go through a season of wrestling with their faith, asking hard questions, reading widely, and being honest with their struggles.
- Like Job or the psalmists, they express their doubt openly to God but remain in pursuit of truth.

6. Engaging in Fellowship

- Being around other believers and hearing their faith stories can strengthen and encourage those who are doubting.
- Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us not to forsake gathering together.

7. Taking a Break from Routine to Seek Clarity

- Some retreat, fast, or pause certain activities to deeply seek God's voice without distractions.

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8. Recognizing Doubt is a Part of Growth

- Doubt doesn't always mean unbelief. It can be part of refining and deepening one's faith.
- Even biblical heroes like Thomas and Elijah experienced doubts, yet God met them in love.

Would you like to reflect on a specific kind of doubt, like salvation, God's love, or spiritual calling? I can help explore how to respond biblically and spiritually.

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Important Reminders

- Everyone Doubts Sometimes
- Don't Trust Your Feelings, Trust God's Word.

Important questions that need to be reflected upon.

- Is God truly faithful to His promises no matter what, even if we do not do what He asks, like many Pastors teach?
- Is it true the teaching that a person cannot earn their salvation, or is it a misleading phrase to make people believe that God does not require of us to do anything to receive His promises?

In short, doubt doesn't have to weaken your faith. It can make it stronger if you seek truth, follow God's ways, and rely fully on the truth of the Gospel and not in our feelings. Know God's promises but also know what changes He requires of you. That's how you grow in confidence and peace into the person God has called you to become.

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