

Sunday Series: THE BIBLE – Handwriting of God

Message Summary: We expect doubters to become believers, but we do not expect believers to become doubters. Doubts occur when something we expect to happen isn't happening and what should not happen is happening. To Doubt means to waver between faith and unbelief. We are unable to make up our mind. But overcoming doubt isn't just about feeling better; it's about getting back into faith that only comes from the Word of God (Romans 10:17). When you're in doubt, refer back to the Word of God just the way Jesus told John the Baptist to do.

THE BIBLE - Dealing with Doubts

Matthew 11:1-6

1. Devout Believers Wrestle *with* Their Faith (vv. 1-3)

Characteristics of one who doubts:

- A. Up and down emotionally. James 1:6,8
- B. Tossed around doctrinally. Ephesians 4:14
- C. Answers both yes and no mentally. James 1:8; 4:8

2. Developing Believers Reason *through* Their Faith (vv. 4-5)

3. Determined Believers Remain *in* Their Faith (v. 6)

How to Deal with Doubts

- A. Question your doubts not your faith. 2 Corinthians 5:7
- B. Concentrate on what you know, NOT on what you don't know. Philippians 4:8
- C. Trust in the Lord with your heart, not your head. Proverbs 3:5-6

LifeGroup QUESTIONS:

BEGIN IT (5min) - Praise song & opening prayer.

OPEN IT (10min) - What causes people to second-guess themselves?

EXPLORE IT (60min) – Read Matthew 11:1-6 taking time to review Sunday's sermon outline stopping at each point to allow questions and contributing thoughts from the group. Now answer:

1. If you faithfully lived for God and were thrown in jail, how do you think you might react?
2. Based on this passage, how do you think Jesus reacts when we have moments of weakness and doubts about or faith?
3. How do you personally handle doubts when they come?

APPLY IT (15min) – What immature attitude or action do you need to change today in order to develop more fully in your faith?