

BELIEVE

WHEN JESUS MEETS US IN OUR DOUBT

PRECEPT

ISAIAH 41:10

¹⁰ Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

ISAIAH 55:8

⁸ For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD

PROMISE

It is safe to say that all of us have struggled with doubts at some point of our lives. Whether one is a Christian or not, we all doubt from time to time. There are doubts that are trivial and those that pertain to our beliefs.

A lot of things can cause us to doubt; one is our emotions. When we dwell on how we feel, we can sometimes get deceived by it. The Bible reminds us that, *"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"* (Jeremiah 17:9). Repetitive sins can also cause us to doubt God. 1 John 3:6 says, *"Anyone who continues to live in Him will not sin. But anyone who keeps on sinning does not know Him or understand who He is."* Lack of faith can also be a reason for our doubts. Matthew 22:29 tells us, *But Jesus answered and said to them; "You are mistaken, since you do not understand the Scriptures nor the power of God."* Truly, when we do not God and His Word, we cannot put our total trust and confidence in Him. When we do not understand the Scripture and the power of God, we are mistaken and we tend to doubt. But this does not necessarily mean that we have a weak faith in God. Several characters in the Bible went through many doubts despite seeing what God can do in their lives. Some of these men and women are Adam & Eve (Genesis 3), Abraham & Sarah (Genesis 16-18), Moses (Exodus 3), Job (Job 1-10), John the Baptist (Matthew 3-11), and Elijah (1 Kings 18-19). Look into these verses and see how doubts arose in their minds despite knowing God and being with Him. From these stories we can conclude that battling with doubts is normal, but thank God He works through our weaknesses and loves us no matter what. He remains faithful and helps us deal with our doubts. What is our part in order to overcome these doubts?

SEEK GOD'S HELP. Wrestling with doubts can be a challenging feat in our lives, but God promises to help us in our struggle provided we come to Him and seek Him. He wants to develop an intimate relationship with us as He guides us in dealing with our doubts. We don't need to mask it and pretend that we have it all together, we just need to come to Him and be honest with Him, and ask for His aid. In the story where Jesus heals a boy possessed by an impure spirit, the father said along the lines of *"I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!"* (Mark 9:17-26) We can come to Him openly and He will help us overcome our doubts.

SEARCH HIS WORD. Only when we search His Word can we come to know His character and promises. When we become doubtful because of the many trials we have in life, we can search His Word and know that He is for us, and we will be victorious because He will strengthen us.

STAY CONNECTED. We are not meant to be isolated. When we are feeling lost and alone, Jesus will show up and let us know that He is with us, and will never forsake us. When Thomas doubted Jesus in John 20:24-25, He appeared to him and helped him overcome his disbelief. Through any pain and sorrow, He teaches us to put our faith not on our circumstances, but on Him alone.

PRACTICE

1. Doubts in Life. What are some of the things in the past/present that causes you to doubt God? How will you overcome this based on our discussion today?

2. Application. What does God wants us to do to deal with doubts, based on His Word? What practical steps can you apply when doubts hit you?

PRAYER

I. Life Kids Ministry

- Pray for strength for all volunteers and children as they start this ministry.

II. Members

- Pray that our members will always practice Christlikeness, glorifying & pursuing Him at all times.

III. Young Adults Ministry

- Pray for the singles and young adults that they may grow deeper in their love for God.

IV. Life Worship

- Pray that more members will volunteer in this ministry and they may live a life of true worship to God.

V. Life Link

- Praise God for our brethren who continues to be passionate in serving in this ministry.

VI. Intercessory Ministry

- Pray that we can start this ministry soon and more members will be prayer warriors.

VII. Volunteers

- Pray that each member of our church will volunteer to use the gifts God has granted them.