

“Doubt, But Don’t Depart”

For countless Christians, there comes a time when you doubt God. Now, before you say “Not me. I have *never* doubted God”, let me clarify this statement further. The point raised is not that you doubt the *existence* of God because I’m sure that all of you believe in the Almighty God and truly love Him. What I am referring to is those moments when we doubt, not His *existence* but rather His *presence*. We have all faced those moments when we have doubted God’s presence in our lives. These moments are common to all believers. In fact, the very nature of these often troublesome moments bring about the doubting of God’s presence. We tend to doubt God’s presence the most when we are being challenged with an extremely difficult situation that does not seem to get better even though we continue to pray over it. Doubting God’s presence in our lives can occur when we are praying for specific answers to major decisions and we do not hear from Him. An unfortunate situation that could have been avoided, yet occurs and brings along with it pain and anguish, can stir up our doubt. Seeing someone else get blessed with health, finances, a spouse, a job, while you have been waiting and struggling for the same, can stir up questions about the presence of God in your life and your circumstances. Losing a loved one unexpectedly can certainly surface emotions of doubt. So, it is normal to doubt at times if we don’t sense God is there and working things out on our behalf. Even though the Lord is clear in His Word when He says that “...every detail in our lives is worked into something good when we love Him” (Romans 8:28 *The Message*).

I would encourage any believer not to find it surprising when you do go through those moments of doubt. So, the question is not whether you will doubt but whether you will depart. We can doubt without departing. For many who have fallen away, the root of the cause was the doubting of God. Doubting breeds questioning. It is one of the enemy’s oldest plays in his playbook. First you doubt. Then you question. Now, you are on dangerous grounds and a slippery slope because what comes next is distraction. Finally, you get depressed which leads to departure from God. What began as doubting ended up as departure.

So, how can you overcome doubt before it gets the best of you and leads you away from the Lord? First, you must understand that God says in His Word that He will never leave you nor forsake you. He says NEVER. This means ...NEVER! So, whatever you may be facing, God says that He will never leave you, even if your emotions tell you different. You must stand on His promise. Secondly, we must stay in His Word daily. His Word is what allows Him to speak to us and fortify our spirits continuously. Thirdly, it is during those times when doubt will rear its ugly head that we cannot keep what we are feeling to ourselves and stay isolated from others. The Bible says in 1Peter 5:8 that “our enemy prowls around like a lion looking for someone to devour”. A lion will wait for the most opportune time to attack when he sees his prey isolated from the rest. The opportunity to share your feelings and doubts with someone in your fellowship can open a channel for God to minister to you as well as provide you the opportunity to be strengthened by the fellowship of a few. Finally, take a moment to remember His goodness. It is easy to forget how good God has been to us in times of doubting. We must never forget what God did for us “that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

We are human beings so momentary episodes of doubt will surface from time to time. I believe God is aware of that. His concern is not that we doubt. His desire is that we don’t depart.

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