

“Dealing with Doubts About Christianity”

High School Mid-Winter Retreat – Lake Springfield Christian Assembly - 2023

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Intro

- A. Faith vs. doubt
- B. Doubt can be a doorway to _____ **DIS-BELIEF** _____ or to deeper _____ **BELIEF** _____.

I. Doubts as Dis-Belief

- A. **Thomas** (John 20:27 NIV): “Stop doubting and believe.”
- B. **Jesus** (Matt 21:20-21): “... If you have faith and do not doubt ...”
- C. **Peter** (Matt 14:31): “... O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

II. Doubts toward Deeper Belief

- A. **Thomas** (John 20): “Do not disbelieve, but believe” (ESV).
 - 1. Thomas wanted _____ **EVIDENCE** _____.
 - 2. Jesus does not _____ **CONDEMN** _____ Thomas.
 - 3. Thomas’s doubt led to greater _____ **CERTAINTY** _____.
- B. **John the Baptist** (compare John 1:29 and Matthew 11:2-3).
 - 1. Compare John 1:29 and Matthew 11:2-3.
John 1:29 “Behold the Lamb of God ...”
Matt. 11:3 “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” (NIV)
 - 2. Jesus does not _____ **CONDEMN** _____ John.
 - 3. Jesus actually _____ **COMMENDS** _____ John: “Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist...” (Matt. 11:11).
- C. **Father of sick boy** (Mark 9:14-29): “I do believe; help my unbelief.”
- D. ALL of the early followers of Jesus had _____ **DOUBTS** _____.

III. Types of Doubts

- A. **Emotional.** Based on feelings (self-doubts).
- B. **Intellectual:** Based on thinking.
- C. **Willful:** Based on our will.

Thomas Nagel (atheist philosopher): “It isn’t just that I don’t believe in God and, naturally, hope that I’m right in my belief. It’s that I hope there is no God! I don’t want there to be a God; I don’t want the universe to be like that.” (*The Last Word*, 130)

IV. Some Encouragement

- A. Doubt is not the same as _____ **DIS-BELIEF** _____.
- B. Having some doubts is _____ **NORMAL** _____, because absolute intellectual certainty is not possible.
- C. You can have _____ **SUFFICIENT** _____ reasons for belief that are not based on mere feelings (John 20:30-31; 1 John 1:1-4).