

# DEALING WITH DOUBT

## MAIN TAKEAWAY

John the Baptist doubted but still believed. Jesus loves you and understands your questions, so don't be afraid to express them—a mark of a true believer is to bring your doubts to God.

## INTRODUCTION

**In what way is doubt a sign that someone is thinking?**

**Instead of being the opposite of faith, how is doubt an element of faith?**

## UNDERSTANDING

**READ LUKE 7:18-28**

**Why did John the Baptist experience doubt? How does his doubt illustrate how we sometimes misunderstand God and His Word?**

***Jesus loved John and understood his questions and doubt—He answered with clarification, not condemnation. How does Jesus' response reveal the way He helps those who doubt?***

**Pastor Greg explained the difference between doubt and unbelief: "Doubt is a matter of the mind; unbelief is a matter of the will." How can doubt and belief occur at the same time (Mark 9:24)? What are other examples in the Bible where godly people experienced doubt, and how does this encourage you?**

***Jesus refocused John's priorities. In what way was John not asking too much, but too little? How did Jesus bring John's problems into perspective?***

**John's doubts were answered by Scripture (v.22). How did Messianic prophecies provide reassurance for John (Isaiah 35:5; Isaiah 61:1)? How does this emphasize why we should always go back to the Word?**

**Stay the course when you don't see the plan (v.23). Pastor Greg said, "God never promised He would inform us about His plan ahead of time—He's just promised He has one, ultimately for our good and His glory." We trust and follow now, but how will Heaven bring clarity (1 Corinthians 13:12)?**

**What made John the Baptist the greatest (v.26-28)? What is the advantage for the New Testament believer?**

## **APPLICATION**

**Pastor Greg explained, "Sometimes we need to go through the foyer of doubt to get into the sanctuary of certainty." Like John the Baptist, how have you experienced moments of doubt? How has Scripture answered your doubts?**

**When we get down, we need to look up and be reminded that God is in control (Colossians 3:1-4; Romans 8:28). How do your priorities need to be refocused by Jesus?**

**Jesus loves you and understands your questions. As Jesus defended John, how can we know what God thinks about us (Jeremiah 29:11; 1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 2:10)?**

## **PRAYER**

Thank God that He hears your prayers and answers them—bring your questions and doubts to the Lord. Pray for those who doubt and have mercy on them (Jude 1:22). Ask the Lord to refocus your priorities and help you stay the course.