

Exposing the Root of Doubt ©

By Asa Dockery

Mark 9:17-18 (NKJV): 17 Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. 18 And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not."

This is not good, is it? He brought his son to Jesus' disciples, he was in need, but they could not help. They could not cast that spirit out of his son. So the father of the boy is very desperate.

Mark 9:19 (NKJV): 19 He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me."

O faithless, O faithless, O faithless generation. Jesus called them a faithless generation.

Mark 9:20 (NKJV): 20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

Now the spirit knew Jesus. He knew the power and the authority Jesus walked in obviously, right? Because when the boy saw Jesus, the spirit in him, caused the boy to begin to convulse or he started manifesting himself through the body of the boy.

Mark 9:21-22 (NKJV): 21 So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. 22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

But if you can do anything, if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us. That doesn't sound very believing or very reassured does it? But if you can do anything with him, have compassion. I have gone through your disciples but they didn't help us.

Mark 9:23 (NKJV): 23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things *are* possible to him who believes."

If you can believe, if you can believe, all things are possible to the one who can believe. If you can believe all, all things, not some things, but all things are possible. Jesus was not lying here. He said all things are possible to him who believes so we have trouble believing. It isn't Jesus' problem; it is on our end. It says in Hosea chapter four that God's people are destroyed from a lack of knowledge of knowing the truth, right? When things don't work out sometimes we want to blame God, however the Bible says if we know the truth, the truth that we know will make us free. So there is something we don't know sometimes about faith, about how it operates, and it can keep us from getting what God calls possible. God says it is possible, but only if you can believe for it will be possible for you.

Mark 9:24 (NKJV): 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

This father is in anguish, he cried out with tears, that is anguish for his son. Lord, I believe, but help my unbelief. Help my unbelief.

Have you ever been in a place where you seriously needed God to do something but you didn't have the faith to receive it? I mean, imagine the anguish of this father, his hope is quickly fading. He has heard about Jesus and His disciples going throughout the land healing and doing good to all those who were sick and oppressed of the devil. He has been hearing of this or obviously he would not have come to them. And when he came to the disciples and ask them to cast the spirit out of his son, (for he has been this way ever since he was a small child,) they said, we are just not having good results here, sorry.

So now the father is coming to Jesus and says if you can do anything, anything at all, will you please save him, will you deliver him from this. It is a bad place to be where you are in dire need of God to do something, but you don't have the faith to receive it.

Did you know that if we didn't have any doubt whatsoever, faith would be easy? So maybe it is not a faith issue, maybe it is doubt issue.

Let's look at the beginning. It always begins or has its beginning in Genesis. Let's look at chapter three. Where is doubt in there? It is throughout it.

Genesis 3:1-5 (NKJV): 1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' " 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

God knows in the day that you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. Watch this. God had created Adam and Eve in His own likeness. He brought Eve to Adam and gave her to him. She knew where she came from. She didn't climb out of a pond. Her eyes popped open and the LORD God is standing there. And the Bible says *He brought her* to Adam. She knew where she came from, did she not? Yes, so what happened? Satan was able to cast doubt in the mind of Eve about God to sway her belief **in God.**

Have you ever felt good about something, strong about something, and then something happens to cause you to start doubting? Let me put it to you this way. You are healthy, you are happy; you're at work and somebody beside you sneezes all over you. Or you are somewhere and someone walks up to you and to say, mournfully, I am so sick with the flu, and then they cough all over you. You know immediately what is going to happen. There is a thought that is going to pass through your mind, I just got the flu, thank you so much!

See we do well until someone or something comes along and shakes our faith. Do you remember Gilligan on the television series Gilligan Island? Gilligan was a man of faith. He had so much more faith than the Skipper. I remember an episode when Gilligan got these feathers off this bird, I don't know where he found them on this deserted island, but he got the feathers nevertheless, I think they came out of the prop shop over in Hollywood, but that is beside the point. He got the feathers, from wherever, and now he is up on top of the coconut hut, and he starts flapping his wings which he made with the feathers, and he is actually flying. And while he is flying the Skipper looks up at Gilligan and says, "What are you doing up there little buddy?" Gilligan tells him he is flying. Skipper looks at him and tells him he can't fly. Gilligan says innocently, I can't? And he falls to the ground. See it only took that one seed of doubt; 'You can't do that.'

The serpent, Satan, comes to Eve and says, "Has God indeed said?" 'You won't die. No, you won't die.' This caused doubt to come into her heart about God. The seed was planted, that is all it took. One little suggestion from Satan shook her faith in God. This doubt now causes her to harden her heart toward God's commandment that she not partake of the tree. Doubt caused Eve to entertain another opinion about the outcome of indulging in sins pleasures. Doubt causes us to entertain another opinion about the outcome of indulging in sins pleasures also. **Doubt will cause a person to consider another opinion or another point of view.** Think about that.

When doubt is acted upon, as we see with Eve, it will cause a person to draw away from the truth. What did she do? When doubt came in she drew away from the truth. When doubt comes in, we will automatically separate or withdraw ourselves. You know that in First John he talks about how as brothers and sisters in the Lord we have fellowship with one another. Now we love that fellowship especially over a meal, everything is a good occasion to eat! Why, because Christians love to fellowship. But did you know that if sin comes into a person's heart you will start seeing them missing in action? Suddenly they are no longer fellowshiping over the meal. Where did they go? Sin kills fellowship. Sin separates.

The moment doubt comes into a person's heart it severs fellowship with the Spirit. It grieves the Holy Spirit, because you are walking in doubt and no longer in faith. So Satan comes and offers Eve, not God's opinion, not God's word, but he offers his own opinion about God's word. She receives that doubt into her heart and the moment she does, she starts backing up from the truth. She starts considering the lie. If you receive a false accusation or a lie against God or the truth of His word, then the doubt will pull you away and the accusation will pull you away from God. Doubt will cause even believers to become double minded in their relationship with God. I firmly feel in my spirit this is what God wants to address in the body of Christ right now, doubt and double mindedness. Double mindedness comes out of doubt, because you are vacillating between two opinions, between two points of view. You have what God says and then you have what everyone else says.

Do you remember Elijah, when he came up against the 850, false prophets? You had the 450, prophets of Baal and you had the 400, false prophets that ate at Jezebel's table and Elijah summons them up to Mount Carmel. When Elijah had this showdown upon Mount Carmel, he said something very interesting. Elijah asked the children of Israel how long are you going to halt or waver between two opinions? If Baal is God then worship Baal, isn't that what he said? Isn't that interesting? A prophet of God gave Israel, the chosen people of God, an option to worship Baal as God. He said if Baal is God then worship Baal, but if God is God then worship God. Don't try to get in the middle and worship both of them. It is not going to work. How long Israel are you going

to halt between two opinions? He called them on it, didn't he? Because that halting or that wavering, which is a better term, between two opinions was doubt and unbelief. They couldn't get settled on God as God when they were looking also as maybe Baal being God. They had been influenced.

Now let's go somewhere else. Do you remember King Balak who wanted to hire Balaam the prophet to curse the children of Israel? Balak and Balaam go to the top of a mountain, and Balak is offering Balaam money if he will pronounce a curse over Israel in order for Balak to gain victory over Israel. God was with Israel and Balak wanted them cursed so that he could invade them and have victory over them.

Now Balaam looks down over the valley where Israel is camped, he sees their tents and he goes to speak a curse over them and when he speaks, instead of a curse, it is a blessing. So Balak gets mad and says let's go up higher, maybe your reception isn't too good down here. Let's go on up a little bit higher. They ascend higher and Balaam again sees Israel in the valley and opens his mouth to curse them, but once again a blessing comes out instead of a curse. Now Balak is beside himself in anger. I am giving you money to curse them so why do you not curse them? They ascend again and Balaam goes to curse them again but as before instead of a curse he says what God has blessed no man can curse! But, he said to Balak, I will tell you this, if you can get Israel to intermingle with the Moabites, they will bring a curse upon themselves.

Who are the Moabites? They are the descendants of Lot, who were conceived through incest. Remember God had called Abraham from his father's land and from his family to go to the land God would show him, but Abraham would not leave Lot behind. A time came when God separated Abraham from Lot. And God used the size of Abraham's and Lot's households to separate them and the strife it was causing between their herdsmen. Lot had chosen Sodom and Gomorrah and Abraham had went the other direction. When Sodom and Gomorrah was destroyed, Lot's two daughters, fearing barrenness, lay with their father and the Moabites are descendants of that union.

Now through Balaam speaking this to Balak he was bringing Abraham and Lot back together. See there is a reason God says, I believe it is in First or Second Corinthians, come out from among them, be ye separate, touch not what is unclean and I will receive you unto Myself. There is a reason why the Bible tells us not to mingle with them. Don't cohabituate with them. Don't have intercourse with them, don't have fellowship with them. Why, because their sinful ways will influence you through relationship. What you would not do before relationship, when you get into relationship with them you will compromise and allow that what you would not do to come into your life and that will taint your faith; and a little leaven leavens the whole. Just a little leaven leavens the whole lump, right?

So Elijah is dealing with this spirit of the Israelites vacillating between God and Baal. Then comes the showdown when the false prophets of Baal get up, shout, dance crying out to Baal and they cut their bodies and blood begins to flow down their bodies but Baal remains silent. He doesn't say a thing. Elijah however, gets up and says a two or three sentence prayer. 'God, I am your servant, show yourself strong,' is basically what he says. When he finished that simple prayer, the fire of God came down, burned up the sacrifice, licked up the water and consumed and burned up the wood and even the stones of the altar. He had a Holy Ghost party because that showed the people who God was. It wasn't Baal. It was Jehovah God. So what happened? They

had a false prophet hanging. They killed eight-hundred and fifty prophets, every one of them were slain. What did that do? It got the leaven out of Israel. It broke forty-two months of drought.

God, we are going through some stuff down here in this nation. God says to get the Moabite-ness out of you. Get that Pharisaical spirit out of you. Get the leaven of the Pharisees out of your midst. Get that doubt and unbelief out of you. Get it away from you, it is tainting you, it is poisoning your spirit and you are living off of the fruit of it!

Where is the God of Israel? He is where He has always been; but where are we? Who have we been listening to that is poisoning us?

Deuteronomy 30:11-14 (NKJV): 11 "For this commandment which I command you today *is not too* mysterious for you, nor *is* it far off. 12 *It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?'* 13 *Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?'* 14 *But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.*

God is speaking this. He is speaking to Moses and the children of Israel. The commandment, this one commandment that I am speaking is not too mysterious for you. It is not too spooky for you, and it is not too far off for you. But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and it is in your heart that you may do it. So the word of God has to have an agreement. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. There has to be an agreement between your heart and your mouth. Now look at what He says.

Deuteronomy 30:15-17 (NKJV): 15 "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, 16 in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away

If your heart turns away, if you believe an evil report, if you should let doubt enter into your heart and you let your heart be drawn away, do you hear what He is saying? If your heart turns away so that you do not hear, then you will be drawn away. This is God speaking, there is no interpretation coming through man here. This is God Himself declaring this.

Deuteronomy 30:17 (NKJV): 17 But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them,

Stop. What happened? What happened when Eve heard that lie and it caused doubt to come into her heart, she drew away to serve another god. It drew her away and she began to serve the god of self. Did you see that? When a lie comes, when a deceptive spirit brings an accusation against God or His word telling you that God is not going to show up; that He is not going to be faithful to you; that He is not going to make it in time; when that starts coming to you, if you receive it you will pull back from God and you will be drawn to something else that is a counterfeit.

Deuteronomy 30:17-18 (NKJV): 17 But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, 18 I announce to you today that you shall surely perish;

You will surely perish. What are we seeing today? People are perishing.

Deuteronomy 30:18-20 (NKJV): 18 I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong *your* days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; 20 that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He *is* your life and the length of your days;

What happened to Adam and Eve when they turned their heart on God? Death came.

Deuteronomy 30:20 (NKJV): 20 that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He *is* your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

Now why did He have us read this? Here it is. God gave the Jews, His chosen people, an opportunity that day to overcome any and all doubt in their hearts by choosing to love God and to keep only His commandments. You say what does a decision have to do with getting doubt out of your heart? Once you make a decision and commit to that decision all doubt should be out, because you are not vacillating any longer. Satan comes to Eve and gives her another opinion, and she's vacillating.

So God is saying you have seen the track record of Adam and Eve and all the Jews and the people which have come after that and you have seen what they chose. You have seen how I raised up Noah, how I saved him and his family only and how the rest of the people perished. These are times are recorded for your example so chose life. Go ahead and make a decision and commit to that decision and I will guarantee you, as a matter of fact, He says I swear to you by My own self, in Genesis chapter 22, I will bless you and your children will possess the gates of their enemies but you must commit to Me with your whole heart. Not half of your heart but with your whole heart. He was giving to them the opportunity to get doubt out of the camp in order that He could bless them with the inheritance of the Promised Land so they would not have to remain in the wilderness and perish in the wilderness. But they allowed doubt, even though He came and told them this; they still allowed doubt to get into the camp.

By the Lord setting this decision before His people He was making them chose which path they were going to take. They could not have it both ways and be blessed. Did you get that? You cannot live both ways. You can't live in the Spirit and in the flesh and say God bless me. You cannot live in righteousness and mix it with sin or unrighteousness and say God bless me. It will not work.

What does death have to do with life? What does darkness have to do with light? Nothing, there is no communion. God wanted them to serve Him but they could not do so and be double minded. He wanted them

to choose whom they would serve so He could bless them, and they would know how the blessings came, and from Whom they came.

Now if we want to be blessed and we want to live the abundant life that Jesus promised us in John 10:10, then we must decide whether we are going to love God or self. Once you have made the decision then walk according to that decision. Don't be a hypocrite. If we will chose to love God and to follow His path then the Holy Spirit will illuminate our understanding and we will know God.

God is not pleased when we try to be friends with the world and friends with Him. Unlike the world, God knows when you are playing Him. Your spouse may not know you are cheating on them but God knows when you are cheating on Him!

Let's go to Numbers 27:13. You know the story. The Israelites are at the banks of the Jordan, getting ready to cross over into the Promised Land. They have made the mistake of sending twelve spies into the land to spy it out instead of taking God at His word; they have implemented man's system.

Numbers 13:27 (NKJV): 27 Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this *is* its fruit.

It truly flows with milk and honey. It truly flows with milk and honey, did you get that? What did God promise them up to this point? I will give you a land flowing with milk and honey and it will have vineyards you did not plant. It will have houses you did not build and wells you did not dig. And the spies come back and confirm what God has been promising them all along, right? Truly, God was right. This is the best truth these spies have ever spoken out of their mouths as spies. But they put a 'but' in there. Look out for the nevertheless of the Pharisees.

Numbers 13:28-29 (NKJV): 28 Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land *are* strong; the cities *are* fortified *and* very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan."

And I suppose God didn't know about all those people? So these spies feel it necessary to tell the children of Israel that the land was populated. Is it just me or didn't God tell us it had to be populated or there would not be vineyards, or houses, or wells? So why are you focusing on the people and not on what God said? Doubt, doubt will always look at what?

Numbers 13:30 (NKJV): 30 Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once

Now faith is, now, not tomorrow, not next week but now; faith is now. Let us go up at once!

Numbers 13:30 (NKJV): 30 Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."

We are well able to overcome it. Faith overcomes. Joshua and Caleb were fighters. We don't care that there are giants, look at the God who brought us out of Egypt! Look at God who brought us through the Red Sea,

through the wilderness with the fiery serpents, through the lack of food and through the lack of water! Look at all He has done! We are still able for God is still with us to enable us to overcome the land! You can possess your land but first you have to overcome your land! Christians just want it given to them. It is by faith, without faith you cannot please God.

Numbers 13:31 (NKJV): 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they *are* stronger than we."

We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we. Where is their focus? *Doubt always puts the focus on us.* I am not worthy. I can't. Doubt doesn't put the focus on God but on us. He had 'I' disease: I, me, my, mine, myself.

Numbers 13:32 (NKJV) 32 And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies *is* a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it *are* men of *great* stature.

They gave a bad report. They gave an evil report. They gave an evil report just like Satan gave an evil report to Eve, right? They had two opinions now. Which one did they believe?

Numbers 14:1-2 (NKJV): 1 So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. 2 And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!

They believed the evil report. Doubt keeps you out. Their doubt caused them to believe the evil report, and they died in the wilderness, except for the young ones, Joshua and Caleb. Doubt has to be driven out of our lives. It is poisoning us and it is robbing us of the inheritance which we have in Christ that has already been bought and paid for in full. We just have to overcome to obtain it. God had promised them the land and the spies that brought back an evil report of doubt. Even though they confirmed to Moses and the people that there was fruit and that it flowed with milk and honey as God had promised, they allowed doubt to cause them to offer another opinion because they feared the giants. They let fear move them away from God. It is not just doubt; it is fear and that fear birthed doubt. Be careful. Fear will move you away from God if you will let it. You don't have to let it, but it can.

Now when we are standing in faith we cannot allow the enemy or the world to intimidate us so that we draw back from our convictions of standing on the truth. Did you know that it is easy to proclaim truth until it is challenged? When it is challenged then you had better know in whom you have believed because once you come under a microscope, once you come under someone's criticism, you have to know what you are believing is true. If you don't, you will fold like a deck of cards. This is why you have to know the truth. This is why you have to get into His word so that when the enemy comes and refutes what you are speaking out of your mouth you will stand. If you don't know it, the enemy can say one thing that sounds believable, 'it is flowing with milk and honey, but, but . . .' it has a little bit of truth but. 'Jesus if You will bow down, Jesus if You will turn these stones into bread,' Satan gives Him a little bit of truth mixed in with a lie. This is where the deception comes in.

So when we are standing in faith we cannot allow the enemy or the world to intimidate us so that we draw back from our convictions. And this is what has happened in America, the church has drawn back. We were challenged. What do we do here? You dig into God! Those who know their God shall be strong and do

exploits. God only speaks the truth. He is not man that He should lie, nor is He the son of man that He should repent, He only speaks truth. Therefore you can bank on what God says.

The Jews allowed the unbelieving spies who were full of fear to persuade them from hearing the confirmation and thereby allowed the spies to rob them of their inheritance. Instead of wanting to string up the spies, they wanted to string up Moses. Instead of crucifying Satan, we crucified Jesus. We crucified the One who told us the truth.

God has given us several instances out of the Old Testament which shows us that Satan will use negative people and adverse situations to rock our faith, if possible. He does it to cause us to doubt that we will receive our answer by faith. This is what it boils down to. You are a Christian, you believe, but you are not seeing. You believe but it is not manifesting. You are sick and you need healed. You are bound and you need freedom. You are broke and you need blessed. You believe it but you are not seeing it. God says these things have to be dealt with.

Matthew 14:22-26 (NKJV): 22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. 23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. 24 But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. 25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. 26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

They cried out for fear. Fear moves you.

Matthew 14:27-28 (NKJV): 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." 28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You,

Jesus said it was Him, He said they were not to be afraid; but Peter answered Him with the question is it You? And Jesus had just said it was. See how fear controls us when we give over to it?

Matthew 14:28-29 (NKJV): 28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

Now Peter is walking by faith is he not? But when he saw. . .

Matthew 14:30-32 (NKJV): 30 But when he saw that the wind *was* boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" 31 And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

The moment Peter took his eyes off of Jesus, the moment Eve took her eyes off of God, the moment Israel took their eyes off of the word of the Lord, are you seeing the pattern here? The moment Peter took his eyes off of Jesus was the very moment Peter gave place to doubt in his heart. The moment he took his eyes off of Jesus and put his eyes on the storm, doubt filled his heart. **Doubt will only look at the problem.**

Faith did not make him look at that storm. Doubt did. He allowed doubt to overwhelm him. Why is that? He was walking on the water wasn't he? That means he was being victorious; he was overcoming the world for that is what that represents, right? But then something cataclysmic was happening and it took his attention off of God. I can keep my eyes on You Lord as long as You don't let the storm get too big! The storm was getting closer, it was getting more boisterous, it was strengthening in its intensity, to the point that he said I cannot stand it any longer. I have got to look. What happened when he looked? He sank. This professional fisherman, this professional swimmer, was about to drown, paralyzed by fear. Fear will paralyze you.

Again, doubt only looks at the problem. What did the ten spies say who gave the evil report? They saw giants. They looked at the inhabitants. They gave a negative report because of what they saw. Faith looked at we are well able to overcome and to possess the land. **Faith will only look at the Answer Who is Jesus.**

We have seen in the word that once we commit to faith, then we have to stand by faith in order to see our faith become sight when our faith is challenged. As we stand in faith we must guard our hearts against doubt, fear, unbelief, division or discord that is sown among the brethren, and the spirit of offense. If you can keep doubt, fear, unbelief, division and the spirit of offense out of your heart you can walk on water. You can take on an army, if that is what God asked of you.

Now what about in Lazarus' case where Jesus didn't show up in the allotted time? As a matter of fact He waited a couple of more days. What do you do in an instance like that? It is too late. He is already decaying. You wait, you wait on the Lord. Isn't that what Psalms chapter 27, says? I would have fainted had I not believed to see the goodness of God in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord, I say again, wait. Be of good courage for the One who called you is faithful.

Well, I have waited a long time. Has it come yet? No! Then His not coming does not mean to stop believing. It means stand. In your standing, He is building something in you. Let's see it. Look at Ephesians 6:10.

Ephesians 6:10-11 (NKJV): 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God,

Why? You have an adversary, the devil. He is going to come against you with wiles, methodology, and strategies that he is going to launch against you and he is going to try his dead level best to talk you out of waiting on your blessing. While you are waiting on your miracle, waiting on the promises of God, he is going to try to convince you God is not there yet and He is not going to show up, and He is not going to help you. Look, Lazarus is dead. Look, it is dead.

So you need to know you have to put on the whole armor of God. I don't even know what that is. We need to study it out because without the whole armor of God you will not be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. That is what was wrong with Eve. She didn't know in Whom she had believed. She didn't have on the whole armor and it made her susceptible to the lies of Satan and doubt.

Ephesians 6:12-13 (NKJV): 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, there it is again. Why do I take it up? That I may be able to withstand, now I am withstanding and that is resisting. They are trying to pull you into something. They are

trying to tear you down. They are telling you that your faith is just you being a fanatic. Paul said to put on the whole armor of God that you can resist that. That church isn't going to make it! People don't care about you! Just give up! Curse God and die! No! You have to resist that! The only time Satan is going to tell you that is when you are struggling with, is God going to do it?

Ephesians 6:13-14 (NKJV): 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded

Gird yourself up. It is time to take on the whole armor of God. We are in for the ride of our life.

You can tell how great the blessing is going to be by the size and the intensity of the warfare that precedes your breakthrough. Someone needs to shout right there. I feel it in my spirit. You have been going through a long trial but it only testifies of the great blessing that is coming now. The war has been hell but heaven is going to be great! The greater the warfare the more intense our focus has to remain on Jesus and His word!

Satan and his demons are working overtime now trying to wear the saints down before the victory is won. He is pulling out all the stops; he knows his time is short and that he is a defeated foe. He is defeated! He was defeated on the cross. He was whipped and he will always be whipped. So what are we to do? We are to keep growing. He is trying to wear us out but God keeps giving us confirmation of His presence. He keeps confirming His faithful love to us. He keeps giving His people breakthroughs, healings, deliverances, and blessings and increases. He keeps giving us enough daily bread to get us through each and every day to help us hold on until the cavalry comes, until the full breakthrough arrives.

James 1:2-3 (NKJV): 2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

So when your faith is tested and you have to wait on God, it is producing or building patience *to wait* on God.

James 1:4 (NKJV): 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

It's not just about patience it is about what patience is going to do in us.

James 1:5 (NKJV): 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

When you get into these various trials ask God for wisdom. He will give you wisdom about what you are going through. Isn't that something, He will give you wisdom about it but won't give the answer to you.

James 1:6 (NKJV): 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting,

There it is. Let him ask in what? Let him ask in faith, with what? Let him ask in faith with no doubting. King James Version says; Let him ask in faith without wavering. For he who wavers, for he who doubts will receive what?

James 1:6 (NKJV): . . . for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

You have to ask in faith. If you waver, if you vacillate between two opinions, what the world says, what your parents say, what your kinfolks say, what your friends say, and what God has said, if you vacillate between those two, you are wavering. Now when a Christian wavers, what does it say will happen?

James 1:7-8 (NKJV): 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord. He will receive nothing, not anything. Wavering, double-mindedness, doubt, and unbelief will keep us from receiving anything from God. A double minded man, a person stuck between two opinions, will receive nothing from the Lord. He will not receive anything from God for he is double-minded and unstable in all of his ways. That is sobering isn't it? You won't receive anything from God so you have to shut out the negative influences, the bad company. Bad company perverts good conduct. Bad conversation perverts chaste conduct. It has to be gotten out.

If we waver between God's word and Satan's lies then we won't receive anything from God. God wants us to completely commit to His word and stand in faith until we see the promise manifested. Why? Why does He want us to commit like He did there in Deuteronomy chapter 30? Choose this day who you will serve, will you chose life and blessings or will you choose death and curse? Which will you chose? You must choose one. He wanted them to choose life so that He could bless them, because in their double-minded state He could not give them the Promised Land. God wants to give us the promises that are yes and amen in Christ Jesus we find in the New Testament. He wants to bless us.

Matthew 6:19-23 (NKJV): 19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness; in other words you are believing something that is not true as though it were true.

Matthew 6:24 (NKJV): 24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

No one can serve two masters, Eve proved it. It does not work. You will either hate the one or love the other. You will either be loyal to the one or despise the other. You cannot serve God and the world. You must choose between them.

Matthew 6:25 (NKJV): 25 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life,

Worry, doubt, causes us to take our eyes off of Jesus. Stay steadfast; keep your eyes on Him until He shows up. Jesus is commanding us in this scripture, once again, chose whom we will serve. Serve Him with all your heart, your complete heart. God wants double-mindedness out of our hearts. He wants to bless His people with Himself. Where He is there is peace, hope, love, and freedom. In His presence is the fullness of joy evermore.

Repent and call upon Him and He will hear you when you call upon Him with your whole heart. He is our life and He is our length of days as we read at the beginning in Deuteronomy 30:20.
