

# DOUBT

God can tell us exactly what He's going to do and how He's going to do it and when the least little thing seems like it goes wrong, then we question the whole thing.

This next passage of Scripture is about the time God sent Moses back into Egypt to be used as a deliverer to set His people free.

**Exodus 5:22-23** – And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Lord, wherefore hast Thou *so* evil entreated this people? why *is* it *that* Thou hast sent me? For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Thy name, he hath done evil to this people; neither hast Thou delivered Thy people at all.

Moses was asking God why He brought all this trouble onto His own people. He was asking God why He even sent him if He knew it was going to go like this. Moses understood that God was all powerful and he knew what God had sent him there to do but none of this seemed to make any sense and God's plan seemed like it was not going to happen. Moses did not understand what God was up to. He said the whole time he had been speaking God's words to pharaoh, pharaoh was being even more cruel to the people. Moses is totally confused about the whole thing. He said to The Lord, after all this, You have not even rescued them.

God had already told Moses His whole plan, He told him He was going to use Moses to deliver His people out of slavery in Egypt. But when the going got tough Moses began to question God immediately. Don't we do that when it looks like God's plan is not going our way? When it seems God isn't doing what He said He would do? That's because we are looking at what is going on in the natural and not keeping our focus on God and trusting His Word no matter what happens in our world. God's word to us or His plan for our lives many times does not look like we think it should. We start to waiver and question or that is doubt when things are not going the way we thought they should go or things are not happening as quickly as we thought they would. So many times God works exactly the opposite of how we think.

**Isaiah 55:8-9** - For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways My ways, saith the LORD. For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

God's thoughts are nothing like our thoughts and His ways are far beyond anything we can imagine. God's ways and thoughts are higher than ours. We can never figure God out completely. And we cannot put Him in a box because He doesn't work the same way all the time. He's not a machine.

When God called me into ministry I started out thinking He was going to send me all around the world and I was thinking literally physically going here and there. As time went by I realized that, that was not going to happen at least not the way I thought it would. Recently the little world map on our website was taken down by the company that hosted it. So we lost all the data that went with it but at last count God had sent Three Hearts Church into 176 countries. So, you see, He has sent this ministry all around this world, just not the way I thought He would do it. We recently got a new map on the website and God has already sent us into 23 countries! But now the map is on the fritz.

God is in control of everything, He owns everything, and everything is at His disposal. **(Psalm 50:10, Haggai 2:8)** He has the wherewithal and the means to accomplish what He has spoken to you and His plans for your life.

**Judges 14:1-4** - And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines. And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife. Then his father and his mother said unto him, *Is there* never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well. But his father and his mother knew not that it *was* of the LORD, that He (The Lord) sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.

In Judges chapter 13, an angel of the Lord had appeared to Samson's parents and

told them they were going to have a son and how to raise him as a Nazarene. They were living in obedience to God's Word, keeping His law and commands and Samson wanting to date a Philistine girl, a gentile girl, the wrong girl - instead of dating an Israelite woman, must have had them questioning God's plan because that certainly didn't look right.

His father and mother didn't realize the LORD was at work in this, creating an opportunity to work against the Philistines, who ruled over Israel at that time. We know how the story went, the Philistines wound up enraging Samson by killing this woman and then Delilah betrayed him for money and in the end of it all they had taken Samson as their prisoner and slave and gouged out his eyes. They were having a big shindig and Samson was there as a spectacle to laugh at for entertainment. His hair was growing back and he called on God for strength to push the pillars down and this took the whole place down. In this one act he killed more Philistines than he ever did in his whole life, he died also. **(Judges 16:23-30)**

**Matthew 14:25-33** - And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered Him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth *His* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped Him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

When God tells you something, take Him at His Word and don't doubt. Peter was doing fine walking on the water until he took his focus off of Jesus. He began to pay attention to the storm, to the strong wind and I can imagine the waves were probably choppy too and at that point he began to sink. We do that don't we.

We can be so sure of what God has said and pretty well think how He's going to bring it about. But when something happens that seems out of line with His Word or plan for us, out of line with what He put in our hearts we begin to question and doubt, just like Peter. Then we begin to sink. We question, well did God really tell me this or that? Maybe I didn't hear Him right. Maybe satan deceived me. Maybe it was just me, my flesh and not God at all. And on and on we go.

Notice Jesus didn't say why were you scared, Peter. He addressed that moment of fear in Peter's life as doubt. He also said he had very little faith. No matter what the storm looked like or what else was going on, Jesus was there and He was in total control – Peter just needed to trust Him no matter what he saw or how he felt.

The year my family and I got sick with covid – the first time, I never believed that God would allow the ministry to shut down for any reason. Then Scott got so sick he could barely function and even went into the hospital. Scott edits and prepares the sermons to be uploaded online and nothing was getting done while he was so severely sick and in the hospital.

In times like those I sometimes do question what is going on. I think what did we do wrong, why didn't You protect us or why did You allow the ministry to shut down etc. But God always turns me to His Word when I begin thinking like that.

Don't we see satan interrupting God's servants and their work in Scripture? Look what happened in Ephesus when the people got riled up against Apostle Paul and he had to leave Ephesus after the uproar the idol makers caused. **(Acts 19:21-41)** How about when the apostles were martyred? That was satan and his servants fighting against God's servants. Look what they did to Jesus, they had false witnesses come to testify against Him. satan always opposes God's ministers, he always opposes the truth. God never said that we are untouchable by satan and his demons, but He has given us power and authority over them in Jesus' name and God protects us. **(Luke 10:19)** We are in a spiritual war and where God is, the devil fights.

I never thought God would allow our original Youtube platform to be taken down but that happened too. Those were hard lessons for me to learn. I had questions and concerns big time and wondered what God was up to in allowing that to happen but we just started another Youtube channel and went on doing what God has called us to do and just trust Him for the outcome. If I had just sat there and began to doubt we could be defeated by satan at every turn. But God is with us and He is for us and because of that, no one can be against us! **(Romans 8:31)**

## TESTIMONIES

Sister Dorcus of Pastor Erustus' ministry in Bungoma, Kenya was diagnosed with breast cancer. Pastor shared to me:

Secondly Pastor I have not had good time to share and request for your prayers about the wife of our Brother Geoffrey who lost his father late last year if you can remember. Now so sad his wife **Dorcus** was diagnosed with cancer in her left breast. This couple have been and are still big support and pillars in our ministry work way back from 2009. Bro. Geoffrey is our ministry treasurer and his wife **Dorcus** is our women leader in our Bungoma church. Sister Dorcus last year in December (2023) after doctors did some test she was advised to undergo surgery and the left breast was removed.



This is Sister Dorcus. After all of that, the cancer came back and was spreading rapidly. More tests were run and she had stage 3 cancer and was advised to undergo chemotherapy. She was advised also not to have any more children. She has one boy and a girl.

I asked Pastor if this couple was having issues with their faith through all of this and Pastor said: You are right Pastor, **Dorcus'** abrupt sickness has really broken their hearts as a couple. At the beginning when you talk to her she could just cry asking us why God allowed it to happen and she has been committed in God's work. I have prayed and anointed her severally. As Pastors when people look at us for prayers, you pray and no answer is coming, all you are left with is just to leave the matter in God's hands and to keep on just encouraging them. We are human beings and we are not God, He does things differently from what we imagine. His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts. But I thank God for prayers, **Dorcus** and Geoffrey are strong and encouraged in the Lord.

They were really doubting and wavering in their faith when this happened. They had been serving Him righteously for a long time. This just made no sense to be happening in their lives. I praise God that Pastor Erustus and Pastor Sarah were there to stand with them and support and pray for them. They really lifted their spirits and so did our support to them.

The treatments she needed are only offered at 3 facilities in Kenya and they are expensive. They were raising money to help her to be able to afford treatments. I praise God that He used us, this ministry, all of you – cheerful givers to fill in the gap and make up the difference for what they did not have so that she could afford the treatments. They had to travel far away from home and stay there during the course of her treatments.



In the middle is Sister Dorcus and her friend was able to make the trip to come and visit her and her husband is there beside her.



Sister Dorcus after being all cleared of cancer and released from care.

Bishop David, a ministry friend of Pastor Erustus' lost his young son who was not even two years old. A sudden sickness came on him and he did not recover. He is a minister serving God faithfully and here he lost his son for no apparent reason. Can you imagine? These things test us and make us question God but if we will hold tight to our faith, God will see us through every test and trial.

Doubting can happen to anyone, some of the Bible greats also doubted at some point in their walk with God. John the Baptist began to doubt when he was imprisoned. He baptized Jesus and knew He was the Son of God. John lived a righteous life but then after he baptized Jesus, soon after he was imprisoned by Herod. He was now facing uncertainty and things didn't look good. He had doubt. but Jesus sent word to him about all the miracles He was doing and He ended by saying "blessed is he who is not offended in Me". **(Luke 7:18-35)**

Let's look at what it means not to be offended in Jesus:

#### on account of Me

This phrase points directly to Jesus as the potential cause of stumbling. It acknowledges that following Christ may lead to challenges, misunderstandings, or persecution. Historically, Jesus' claims to divinity and His radical teachings were a stumbling block for many, including the religious leaders of His time. This phrase calls believers to a deeper commitment, recognizing that true discipleship may involve trials and the need to trust in Jesus' wisdom and authority, even when it defies human logic or tradition.



It really means not to stumble or fall away from the faith because of Jesus. “on account of Me” This phrase points directly to Jesus as the potential cause of stumbling. It acknowledges that following Christ may lead to challenges, misunderstandings, or persecution. Historically, Jesus’ claims to divinity and His radical teachings were a stumbling block for many, including the religious leaders of His time. This phrase calls believers to a deeper commitment, recognizing that true discipleship may involve trials and the need to trust in Jesus’ wisdom and authority, even when it defies human logic or tradition.

John the Baptist lived his whole life devoted to God and look how things went for him, he was beheaded by Herod. That doesn’t seem right to us. God’s ways are not our ways.

Look at all of Apostle Paul’s imprisonments, he must have felt like giving up sometimes or doubting that things were going the way they were supposed to. But he kept doing his ministry work even from prison.

Look at King David, he had been anointed to be the next king of Israel when King Saul was still on the throne. King Saul was jealous of David and kept trying to kill him. King David even thought that eventually King Saul would kill him. **(1 Sam.27:1)** I thought when I read that – but you have been anointed to be king and God is with you, how can you think like that? But King Saul stayed hot on David’s trail all the time and did not let up until David finally started thinking he was going to kill him. Well, that doesn’t line up with being anointed by God’s prophet to be the next king. This was doubt.

Let’s let King David, Apostle Paul and John the Baptist be an example to us to keep pressin’ in, keep the faith and trust God for His plan to unfold in our lives.

When you pray, ask God to help you to trust Him more, ask Him to strengthen your faith, to help you to have a strong and abiding faith.

**Mark 9:17-24** - And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could



not. He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto Me. And they brought him unto Him: and when He saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. And He asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things *are* possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief.

## **CLOSING**

The father said he believed but he did not want to take any chances in case there was any doubt at all, He asked Jesus to help him get rid of it, to help him not to doubt. Jesus said all things are possible to him that believes. Ask Jesus to help you to have a strong faith and to just believe and trust in Him. Ask Him to help you not to doubt just like the man did here in this passage we just read. We do not want any doubt hindering God's good plans for our lives, or keeping us from God's best or from Him moving in our lives or using us for His glory. We don't want to find out we did not do what God had for us to do because we had doubt in our hearts. If I would have doubted that He really called me to minister serving on His altar, so many great works in India and Africa would not have happened and lives being impacted through Three Hearts Church and many through our outreach ministries would have never happened. Don't let satan cause you to doubt – but only believe what God says.

## **PRAYER**