

WISDOM TO MOVE FROM DOUBT TO FAITH

Wednesday 02-01-12

~James 1:5-8, "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. ⁶ But Let Him Ask In Faith, With No Doubting, For He Who Doubts Is Like A Wave Of The Sea Driven And Tossed By The Wind. 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.

~DOUBTS TEND TO FALL INTO THREE CATEGORIES:

- ~1. **First, There Are Intellectual Doubts.** ~Most Often Raised From Outside The Christian Faith.
- ~2. **Second, There Are Spiritual Doubts.** ~These Tend To Be The Doubts Of Those Inside The Church.
- ~3. **Third, There Are Circumstantial Doubts.** ~Encompassing All The "Whys" Of Life.

~THE NATURE OF DOUBT

- ~1) **Many People Think Doubt Is The Opposite Of Faith, But It Isn't. Unbelief Is The Opposite Of Faith.** ~Unbelief Refers To A Willful Refusal To Believe, While Doubt Refers To Some Inner Uncertainty.
- ~2) **Many People Think Doubt Is Unforgivable, But It Isn't.**
~God Doesn't Condemn Us When We Question Him.
- ~3) **Many People Think Struggling With God Means We Lack Faith, But That's Not True.**
~Struggling With God Is A Sure Sign That Our Faith Is Growing.
~Romans 10:17, "So Then Faith Comes By Hearing, And Hearing By The Word Of God."

The "Metamorphosis Of Faith"

- ~From The Cocoon Of Doubt And Unbelief To The Freedom Of Faith!
- ~The Struggle Of Breaking Free From The Cocoon Gives The Caterpillar The Strength To Soar As A Butterfly.

~John 6:28-29, "When They (His Disciples) Asked Him (Jesus), 'What Must We Do To Do The Works God Requires?' Jesus Answered, 'The Work Of God Is This: To Believe In The One He Has Sent.'"

~Work Is Hard, And Jesus Said That It Is "Work" To Believe.

~John The Baptist, Was Able To Make An Incredible Testimony Of The Things He Had Seen, Heard And Experienced With Jesus Christ. ~John 1:29-34;

~Then, After All His Proclaiming That Jesus Is The Messiah Who Takes Away The Sin Of The World, He Finds Himself Questioning His Own Declarations.

~Matt. 11:2-3, "When John Heard In Prison What Christ Was Doing, He Sent His Disciples To Ask Him, 'Are You The One Who Was To Come, Or Should We Expect Someone Else?'" ~Are You Really The Promised Messiah?"

~Matt. 11:4-5, "Jesus Answered And Said To Them, 'Go And Tell John The Things Which You Hear And See: ⁵ The Blind See And The Lame Walk; The Lepers Are Cleansed And The Deaf Hear; The Dead Are Raised Up And The Poor Have The Gospel Preached To Them.'"

~Matthew 11:7, 10-11, "As John's Disciples Were Leaving, Jesus Began To Speak To The Crowd About John... ¹⁰ This Is The One About Whom It Is Written: I Will Send My Messenger Ahead Of You, Who Will Prepare Your Way Before You. ¹¹ Truly I Tell You, Among Those Born Of Women There Has Not Risen Anyone Greater Than John The Baptist; Yet Whoever Is Least In The Kingdom Of Heaven Is Greater Than He."

~HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE YOUR DOUBT.

- ~1. **Admit Your Doubts And Ask For Help.** ~God Can Handle Your Doubts, Fears, Worries, Unanswered Questions.
- ~2. **Don't Be Afraid To "Borrow" Some Faith.** ~Find Someone Filled With Faith And "Borrow" Some Of Theirs.
- ~3. **Act On Your Faith, Not Your Doubts.** ~Noah Built The Ark. ~Abraham Offered Isaac. ~ Moses Marched Through The Red Sea On Dry Ground. ~ David Faced Goliath. ~ Joshua Did Marched Around Jericho. ~ Daniel Was Thrown Into The Lion's Den. ~ Nehemiah Built The Wall.
- ~4. **Doubt Your Doubts, Not Your Faith.** ~Do Not Throw Away Your Faith In Some Deep, Dark Momentary Valley.
~Keep Walking In Faith. Just Keep Faithing.
- ~5. **Keep Going Back To What You Know To Be True.** ~2 Timothy 1:12 Says, "I Know Whom I Have Believed."

~SOME CONVICTIONS THAT CANNOT BE SHAKEN.

~God Is Good, Jesus Is Lord, The Bible Is True...

~Life Is Short, Every Day Is A Gift, People Matter More Than Things...

~Fame Is Fleeting, This World Is Not My Home, And Even Tough Times Can Be Used For My Benefit.