

**U**nderstand

**F**aith

***"For by grace are ye saved through faith;  
and that not of yourselves:  
it is the gift of God:"  
Ephes. 2:8***

# Ever Experience a "Doubt Destroyer"?

1. Imagine what you would like God to do that would provide 100% proof that what the Bible teaches is true. Write down your ideas for these "Doubt Destroyers" (examples: Miracle, Vision, A Personal Visit from Jesus, etc.).

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

2. What would happen if you never experience one of these "Doubt Destroyers"?

	<u>True</u>	<u>False</u>
My faith would probably decrease.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My faith would probably increase.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My faith would probably stay the same	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Did "Doubt Destroyers" change the faith of people in the Bible? Read the following Bible passages to learn more.

A) Read Luke 16:19-31, The parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus

A miracle, such as a person raising from the dead, wouldn't have been enough to convince Lazarus' brothers in this parable. It's the same for many people. If you won't listen to the words of the Bible, you probably won't be convinced by a miracle, even one as magnificent as this!

B) Read Matthew 8:5-13, The story of the Centurion

Jesus marvelled at the Centurion's faith. The Centurion's servant was healed, but he didn't seem to need this miracle in order to booster his faith, he already had it.

C) Read John 20:24-29, The story of Thomas Believing the Lord was Risen from the Grave

Thomas needed to see the nail prints on Jesus' hands before he would believe that it was really Christ. Jesus told him it would be better to have belief without the need to first see Him.

Miracles, angelic visits, and other supernatural events are wonderful blessings and should strengthen your faith! However, according to these stories, there must be other (and apparently better) ways, to eliminate doubt, rather than waiting for a "Doubt Destroyer". That's what these lessons are all about!

## Does faith appear instantly or does it develop over time?

# An Introduction to Faith

**Read the text and then fill in the blanks.**

## 1. *What is faith?*

Hebrews 11:1 The \_\_\_\_\_ of things hoped for,  
The \_\_\_\_\_ of things not seen.

## 2. *What does it do?*

Romans 4:5 Counts for \_\_\_\_\_ .

## 3. *What happens without it?*

Romans 14:23 If it is not of faith, it is \_\_\_\_\_ .

## 4. *What am I supposed to have faith in?*

- A) Mark 11:22 Have faith in \_\_\_\_\_ .
- B) Galatians 3:26 Have faith in \_\_\_\_\_ .
- C) Romans 3:25 Have faith in \_\_\_\_\_ .
- D) Romans 10:9 Believe that God \_\_\_\_\_ Him from the dead.

## 5. *How many "faiths" are there?*

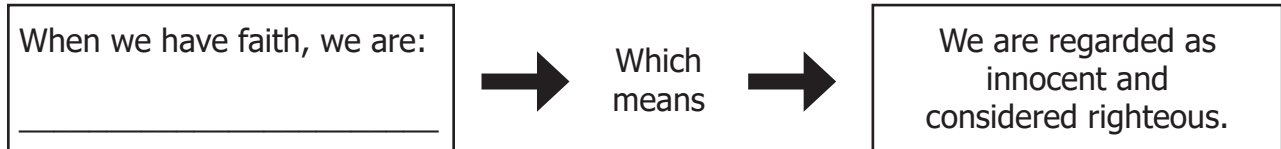
Ephes. 4:4-5 There is \_\_\_\_\_ Spirit and \_\_\_\_\_ faith.

## 6. *How can I increase my faith?*

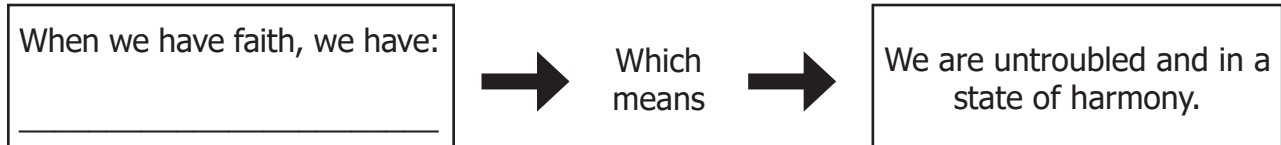
Romans 10:17 Faith comes by hearing the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ .  
Galatians 5:22 Faith comes from the \_\_\_\_\_ .

# Why is Increasing My Faith Important?

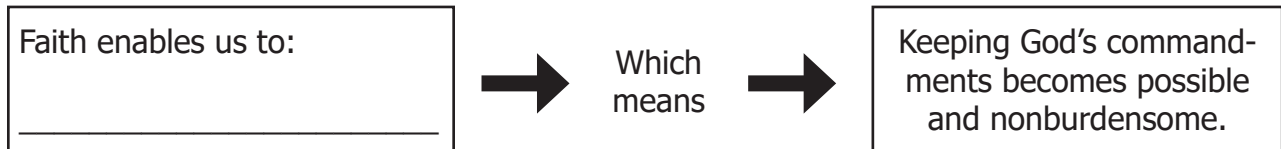
A) Read Romans 3:28



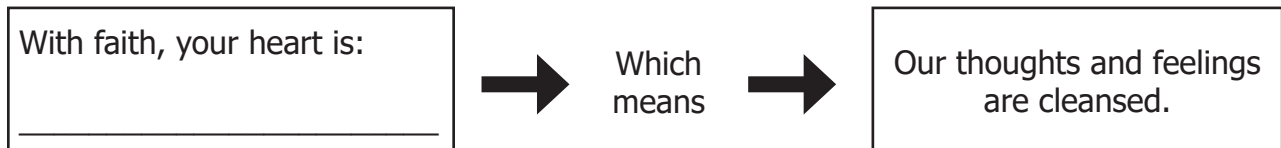
B) Read Romans 5:1



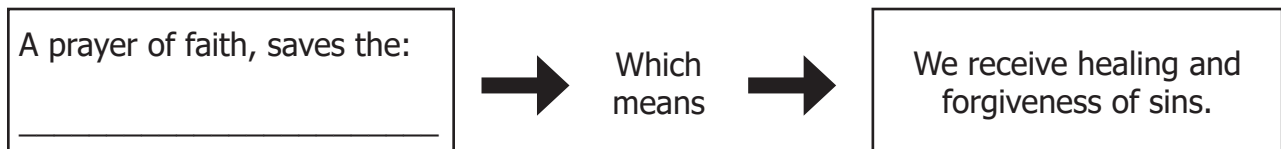
C) Read I John 5:3-4



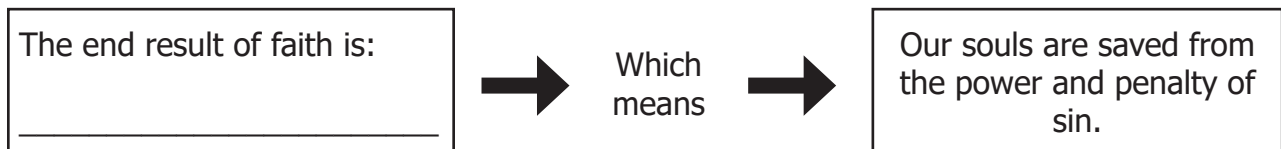
D) Read Acts 15:8-9



E) Read James 5:15



F) Read I Peter 1:9



**Can you think of anything else that is more important?**

# Why Do People Doubt?

You can be a "Healthy Doubter", which means you question new thoughts and investigate subjects thoroughly. However, a "Dangerous Doubter" won't accept, or continually doubts, things of which God has already convicted them and which they have been provided ample evidence.

- A) James 1:8 "A \_\_\_\_\_ man is \_\_\_\_\_  
in all his ways."

If a person is "double minded", it means he or she is vacillating or changing opinions often.

- B) Eph. 4:14 "That we henceforth be no more \_\_\_\_\_, tossed to and fro, and  
carried about with every \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_..."

One of the greatest sources of doubt is simply caused by spiritual immaturity. The more you grow in your relationship with God, the less you will doubt sound doctrine.

- C) Hebrews 10:36-37 "For ye have need of \_\_\_\_\_, that, after ye have done the  
will of God, ye might receive the \_\_\_\_\_. For yet a little while, and he that  
shall \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_, and will not \_\_\_\_\_."

Generation after generation, for hundreds of years, people have expected Christ to return to earth during their lifetime. But, the second coming hasn't happened yet. This discourages some people and causes them to doubt that it will ever happen, even though God has promised.

- D) Matthew 14:30 "But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was \_\_\_\_\_..."

Fear causes people to panic, to lose sight of things in which they believe.

- E) Habakkuk 1:2 "O Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ shall I cry, and thou wilt not  
\_\_\_\_\_! even cry out unto thee of \_\_\_\_\_,  
and thou wilt not \_\_\_\_\_!"

Seeing so much suffering and injustice in the world causes some people to wonder: "If there is a God, how could He allow this to happen?" But, the more you learn about God, the more you understand that even though you can't always discern it in the circumstances of life, God's goodness is always there.

## What causes doubt in your life?

# Should We Ever Be 100% Doubt Free? Is It Possible?

A) James 1:6 "But let him ask in faith, \_\_\_\_\_."

For he that \_\_\_\_\_ is like a \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_  
driven with the wind and \_\_\_\_\_."

Nothing = Not even one, none, naught

B) Hebrews 10:38 "Now the just shall \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_:

but if any man \_\_\_\_\_, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."

Drawing back = Shrink, cower, shun or withdraw

C) Hebrews 10:22 "Let us draw near with a \_\_\_\_\_

in \_\_\_\_\_ assurance of faith..."

Full = Entire, complete, maximum

God has made it possible, and is asking us to have complete confidence, full assurance and 100% faith in Him. While God has not removed all opportunity for doubt, He does give sufficient evidence so that we can make a choice based on the weight of evidence. We should always seek to exercise full faith and eliminate **all** doubt.

**It is only possible with God's help.**

# Are There Wrong & Right types of Faith?

## A) James 2:17

Even so \_\_\_\_\_, if it hath \_\_\_\_\_,  
is \_\_\_\_\_, being alone.

True faith includes being willing to let God change your life and obeying Him.

## B) James 2:19

Thou believest that there is \_\_\_\_\_; thou doest \_\_\_\_\_:  
the \_\_\_\_\_ also believe, and tremble.

It is not enough to just believe that God exists. You have to agree that His ways are best and choose to live according to them.

## C) Mark 1:24

Saying, Let us \_\_\_\_\_; what have we to do with \_\_\_\_\_, thou \_\_\_\_\_  
of \_\_\_\_\_? art thou come to \_\_\_\_\_ us?

I know thee who thou art, the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

Demons believe in Christ. But they haven't submitted to His authority or followed His good ways.

## D) John 12:42-43

Nevertheless among the \_\_\_\_\_ also many \_\_\_\_\_  
on him; but because of the \_\_\_\_\_ they did not \_\_\_\_\_ him,  
lest they should be put out of the Synagogue: For they \_\_\_\_\_ the praise of men  
more than the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

Faith includes believing AND being willing to say it to others.

**There is a difference between believing only and a saving faith.  
Faith is living wholly according to what you believe.**

# Activity: "I Doubt It"

## Instructions:

When you read a Bible story, what is your first reaction? Do you doubt it or do you believe it? The more you study and pray, the more you will come to trust and believe in the God who wrote the Bible and therefore the words within the Bible. Read a Bible story from the list below and reflect upon what it is saying and why you can believe it.

Groups: Give each participant a blank piece of paper and have them each write "I Doubt It!" on one side of the paper and "I Believe It!" on the other side. Next, give each participant one of the Bible texts below (whisper it or write it on a piece of paper so no one else knows what it is). After everyone has a Bible text, give them two minutes to decide on a strategy. They will decide to either read their text as it is written, or they can change one or more nouns (names, places, numbers, things, etc.) within the text (Note: Changed words cannot contain or be a form of the original word. For example, "commandments" cannot be changed to "commands", but "dog" could be changed to "cat") The goal is to bluff or trick the other participants into incorrectly doubting or believing a text. At the end of the two minutes, each participant takes turns reading their text. After each text is read, the other participants decide if the reader is reading the text correctly or not. On the count of three, have all participants hold up their piece of paper with their answer facing outward. Have the reader reveal the correct answer. Give the reader a point for each participant who incorrectly guesses. Give each participant a point if they correctly guess. If the text was changed, be sure to have them inform everyone of the correct words. Discuss how the meaning changed if the words were changed. Once each participant has read their text and the guesses are scored, the round is completed. The participant with the highest score wins. Play additional rounds as time permits.

## Bible Texts:

- |                   |                     |                    |                      |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Matthew 8:26   | 12. 2 John 1:7      | 23. Luke 20:46     | 34. Habakkuk 3:17    |
| 2. Genesis 6:14   | 13. Rev. 9:7        | 24. Acts 3:2       | 35. Esther 2:8       |
| 3. Genesis 13:1-2 | 14. Rev. 21:19      | 25. Acts 6:1       | 36. Esther 9:16      |
| 4. Genesis 25:3   | 15. Lament. 2:15    | 26. Acts 13:6      | 37. Proverbs 3:21-22 |
| 5. Genesis 27:3   | 16. Ezra 4:6        | 27. Acts 24:5      | 38. Proverbs 10:26   |
| 6. Genesis 37:9   | 17. Joel 2:19       | 28. Ephes. 4:31-32 | 39. Proverbs 18:7-8  |
| 7. Psalm 7:16     | 18. I Cor. 1:20     | 29. Col. 2:8-9     | 40. Proverbs 28:3    |
| 8. Psalm 22:14    | 19. I Cor. 16:19-20 | 30. Deut. 1:44     | 41. Proverbs 30:33   |
| 9. Psalm 69:14    | 20. James 3:7-8     | 31. Deut. 8:15     | 42. Jeremiah 4:19    |
| 10. Micah 4:1     | 21. Luke 3:1        | 32. Deut. 32:13    | 43. Jeremiah 8:7     |
| 11. Titus 1:7     | 22. Luke 8:2-3      | 33. Habakkuk 1:8   | 44. Jeremiah 36:23   |

# Answers to Worksheets

## Lesson 1

### An Introduction to Faith

1. Substance, Evidence
2. Righteousness
3. Sin
4. God, Christ Jesus, His Blood, Raised
5. One, One
6. Word God, Spirit

### What is Increasing My Faith Important?

- A. Justified
- B. Peace
- C. Overcome
- D. Purified
- E. Sick
- F. Salvation

### Why Do People Doubt?

- A. Double, Minded, Unstable
- B. Children, Wind, Doctrine
- C. Patience, Promise, Come, Come, Tarry
- D. Afraid
- E. How, Long, Hear, Violence, Save

### Should We Ever Be 100% Doubt Free? Is It Possible

- A. Nothing, Wavering, Wavereth, Wave, Sea Tossed
- B. Live, Faith, Draw, Back
- C. True, Heart, Full

### Are There Wrong & Right Types of Faith?

- A. Faith, Not, Works, Dead
- B. One, God, Well, Devils
- C. Alone, Thee, Jesus, Nazareth, Destroy, Holy, One, God
- D. Chief, Rulers, Believed, Pharisees, Confess, Loved, Praise

# Notes