

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

9.3.2023

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Below please find my sharable thoughts, so please allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word to share.

Why Do Christians Doubt

Matthew 11: 1 – 6

What is spiritual knowledge? It is our practical wisdom and perception of God's word, which is not yet justified by God's righteousness. So, then what is spiritual understanding? It is our wisdom and knowledge of God's word, which God has given unto us, that he has declared righteous in his sight. Therefore, our wisdom and knowledge of God's word, becomes understanding unto us, when we seek after God's declaration of righteousness to justify his word unto us. This means, that there are things that we know, and we are secure in knowing them, because God has justified them unto us. Therefore, we have no reason to doubt or deny them. Now, this does not mean that all wisdom and knowledge that we possess is justified, or will be justified, because even those who claim to be most confident in their spiritual wisdom and knowledge, still doubt. Doubt usually takes place when we become discouraged, or things are not going the way that we expect them to go, meaning that we allow our worldly emotions to overcome our spiritual desire to gain the understanding of the circumstances in our life, that we are experiencing. The life that we live in Christ may not be an easy life to live according to the world, but when we live our life in Christ according to the truth of his word, according to the truth of who he is, then even though we live in trials, tribulations, temptations, sorrows and hardships, we still can have a joyful, prosperous life, established in our growing faith, and spiritual maturity, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15: 58,....therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord....

When we fail to see God at work in the circumstances of our life, we are prone to doubt, not realizing or recognizing that God is the only one who sees the past, present, and future, and is already at work on our behalf, arranging each circumstance according to his own timing, so that he might accomplish his will, and prepare us, to receive that which he has in store for us to do. Therefore, we are encouraged to be strong in our faith, so that we will not compromise the very belief that brought unto us the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Therefore, in Christ, we must strive to overcome doubt.

Matthew 11: 1 – 6,....when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence....when John heard....he sent two of his disciples, and said....art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Jesus answered and said....go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see....blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me....

Often time, just like John, we might question the power of Gods saving grace, and this is done by listening to humanity, who is constantly questioning the promise of Christ return, and the timing of that promise. Now, this does not mean that as Christians, we have lost our faith, it simply means that we just need some answers, because of our moments of worldly confusion, which often time is the result of sorrows from trials and tribulations, that are greatly testing our faith. As we face the struggles of our life here upon this earth, we are going to experience those difficult times that will cause us to question our faith. Struggling with these difficult questions of our faith, in itself is not wrong, the real question is whether or not we will maintain our godly characteristics and allow this experience to motivate us toward a greater faith, or it will motivate us to continue in doubt. As we work through these struggles in our life, we should allow these struggles to help us in being certain of who Christ is, and to be sure of who we are in Christ.

If we go back to our scripture text:

Matthew 11: 6,....blessed is he, whosoever shall not offended in me....

Assumptions are a part of our questionable nature, and our assumptions are most assuredly wrong, because our assumptions are speculations and not the truth. We must not stray from the truthfulness of God's word and give in to our assumptions just because Christ does not immediately meet our expectations concerning the circumstances that are taking place in our life.

Isaiah 8: 14,....he shall be for a sanctuary, but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offense....

Romans 9: 33,....as it is written, behold, I lay in Sion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed....

Why does humanity struggle to accept the idea that true righteousness is found only through faith in Christ. All of mankind would like to be seen as righteous, but by their own works, instead of faith. Instead of receiving the actions of Gods grace in our life by faith, those things which he desires to have, we reject them, and because we reject them, we constantly trip over them in our life in Christ. So, what does that leave? It leaves us with the choice to respond to Christ. We either reject Christ or we accept Christ. By accepting Christ, we are responding in obedience to his word, to the drawing of the spirit of God, who, in his mercy, and his grace, choses for us an eternal life with him, but we must make the choice to accept his purpose and his will for our life. When we allow doubt to creep in, it disrupts the value of our service unto God. So, how do we overcome doubt?

1 Thessalonians 2: 13,....for this cause thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe....

Overcoming doubt is not just about feeling better, it is about getting back into Gods faith, which only comes from his word.

Romans 10: 17,....so then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God....

The only sure way to overcome doubt is to place our complete faith in the truth of God's word, depending wholly and completely upon his promises....

Matthew 8: 8,....the centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof, but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed....

As we grow in faith, and mature spiritually in our life in Christ, we gain the ability, through the indwelling Holy Spirit, to see that Christ is not limited in any way. As we pray, study, and meditate, God will speak unto us through his word, which removes any, and all doubt that we might have that Christ is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask.

Ephesians 3: 20,....now unto him that is able to do exceedingly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us....

Doubt is a natural happening in our life in Christ, and it appears more often than not throughout our service unto the Lord. Rather than run from it in worldly fear, why not allow the Holy Spirit to use it to our advantage in spiritual growth. This means that when we find ourselves questioning aspects of our faith in those things which we believe, then we should seek for answers through Gods word and invest time and effort in seeking to better understand the circumstances which we are allowing to bring doubt into our lives. We must not hide it or deny it, we must use the doubt in our life to move us into a closer relationship with God.

Remember:

Philippians 4: 13,....I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me....

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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