

# THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE SERIES

DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

## THE DISCIPLINE OF DOUBT

*A PRACTICAL SERIES ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES  
AND HOW WE SHOULD BE LIVING IN THE WORLD AROUND US*

Week 28 of a 31 Week Series

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Christianity 101, Faith, Discernment, Discipleship**

**Introduction to the Text;**

**John 20:25**

### Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. :19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, :20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

### John 20:25

The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

**There is no Doubt – That Doubt  
Causes More Pain and Suffering to  
Mortal man than anything else in this life.**

**We need to encourage, exhort and even stir up  
One another in the area of faith and acts of faith.**

**The Function of the Physical Body  
The Function of the Christian Body**

**1 Corinthians 12:26-27**

And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it*; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with *it*. :27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

THE DISCIPLINE OF DOUBT

**1.) Doubt must be confronted head-on**

**1a.) Because mankind is a spiritually designed creation**

**1 Thessalonians 5:23**

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body

Adam and Eve Walked and Talked with God.  
And we are their fallen children

**Genesis 2:17**

but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

**Let's All Turn in our Bible's to Mark 9:16-24**

<sup>16</sup> And He asked the scribes, “What are you discussing with them?” <sup>17</sup> Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. <sup>18</sup> 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.” <sup>19</sup> 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.” <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. <sup>22</sup> 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.” <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, <sup>[a]</sup> all things *are* possible to him who believes.” <sup>24</sup> Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

**DOUBT MUST BE CONFRONTED HEAD-ON**

**1b.) Because mankind has been created for faith**

## The Most Confrontational Challenge of a Believer

### John 20:19-25

Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace *be with you.*” :20 When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. :21 So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” :22 And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. :23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained.” :24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. :25 The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.” :26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!” :27 Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” :28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” :29 Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

## DOUBT MUST BE CONFRONTED HEAD-ON

### 1c.) Because mankind is under a demonic curse

This world, This World System, and this unbelieving world  
Is against having Faith in God.

### Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

### 1 John 5:18-19

We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. :19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the **sway** (*kei/mai keimai = cloud cover, fog or low ceiling*) of the wicked one.

And That's Exactly What We See in Life.

## 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, :4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

## 1 John 2:18-20

Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. :19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out* that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. :20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.

# THE DISCIPLINE OF DOUBT

DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

## 2.) Doubt must be defeated at all costs

### 2a.) Because doubt robs us of our spiritual reality

#### Our Spiritual Reality

### John 10:10

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

#### Our Spiritual Reality

### Matthew 8:23-26

Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. :24 And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. :25 Then His disciples came to *Him* and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" :26 But He said to them, "**Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?**" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

#### Our Spiritual Reality

### John 14:12-15

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do, because I go to My Father. :13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. :14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*. :15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

# DOUBT MUST BE DEFEATED AT ALL COSTS

## 2b.) Because doubt destroys our hope(s)

### Psalm 42:5-6

**Why** are you cast down, O my soul? And *why* are you disquieted within me? **Hope in God**, for I shall yet praise Him *For* the help of His countenance. :6 O my God, my soul is cast down within me; Therefore I will remember You from the land of the Jordan, And from the heights of Hermon, From the Hill Mizar.

Sarah Laughed at the Promises of God  
The King's Officer Mocked Elisha's Prophecy and was Killed.

### 2 Kings 7:1

Then Elisha said, "Hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the LORD: 'Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour *shall be sold* for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria.' " :2 So an officer on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God and said, "Look, *if* the LORD would make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" And he said, "In fact, you shall see *it* with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it."

## 2c.) Because doubt kills our future

### Doubt Kills by Crippling

Crippling our **Moment**, Crippling our **Expectations**, Crippling our **Walk**

!!! What We're To Do !!!

### 1 Peter 5:7-9

casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. :8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. :9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

### James 4:7-8

Therefore **submit** to God. **Resist** the devil and he will flee from you. :8 **Draw near** to God and He will draw near to you.

### Hosea 10:12

**Sow for yourselves righteousness**; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For *it is* time to seek the LORD, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.

### Revelation 21:7-8

He who overcomes will inherit all things, and I will be his God and he will be my son. :8 But the cowardly, the **unbelieving**, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, idolaters and all liars will be cast into the lake which burns with fire and brimstone forever, this is the second death.”

## THE DISCIPLINE OF DOUBT

DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

### 3.) Doubt must be overcome

#### 3a.) Because faith pushes doubt away

### 2 Peter 1:2-8

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, :3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, :4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. :5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, :6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, :7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. :8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Can I Ask You This Question?

What are you doing on a daily basis to push doubt away?

### Here's Where We Can Start;

I'm going to ask all of you to meet me tomorrow at 4am.

(1) Get a pen. (2) Get a highlighter, (3) pray for understanding. (4) mark up your Bible, (5) then pray what's marked up out loud.

## DOUBT MUST BE OVERCOME

#### 3b.) Because faith holds doubt back

**Hebrews 11:1**

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,  
the **evidence** of things not seen.

**evidence** εἰλεγχοῦ ελεγchos, el'-eng-khos; the proof, telonomics, conviction

Faith says, Trust in God.

Doubt says trust in what people say, Trust in self, Trust something you can see.

**“WORRY IS THE WAGE OF DOUBT”**

**Romans 6:23**

For the **wages** of sin (doubt is a sin) is death,  
but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Ephesians 2:5,8**

For even when we were dead in trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ  
(by grace you have been saved)... :8 For by grace you have been saved through faith,  
and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God,*

**DOUBT MUST BE OVERCOME**

**3c.) Because faith puts doubt to death**

True, Biblical Faith can be mistaken for Over-Confidence.  
(faith causes God's promises to become your own)

**Proverbs 28:1**

The wicked flee when no one pursues, But the righteous are bold as a lion.

**1 John 5:3-5**

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments  
are not burdensome. :4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is  
the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. :5 Who is he who overcomes the  
world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

**The dangers of doubt can be Fatal;  
If you doubt that God can work in your life – then are you really a  
believer. Are you really a Christian?**

**You will choose to believe in lies.  
You will begin to worry more and more.  
Your faith becomes sterilized - impotent.  
You will avoid areas of faith and challenge  
You are walking a fine line between hope and despair.**

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*End of Study*

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