A TRINFINITY MINI BOOK

When Faith Has Questions

Honest doubt and the God who answers

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About this book

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Introduction

Some people think a real Christian never has doubts. That is not what the Bible shows. Its pages are full of people who asked God hard questions, some of them angry, some of them afraid. God did not throw them away. He met them.

If you are struggling to believe, or you believed once and now you are not sure, this book is for you. Doubt is not the opposite of faith. It is often the place where faith learns to stand on its own feet.

1 Help my unbelief

A father brought his son to Jesus. The boy had suffered since childhood, and the disciples had not been able to help. Jesus told the father that all things are possible to him who believes.

I do believe; help my unbelief.

Mark 9:24 (NASB)

That is one of the most honest prayers in the Bible. The father had some faith and a lot of doubt, and he told Jesus both. Jesus did not say, come back when you are sure. He healed the boy.

You can pray that prayer too. God already knows what is in your heart. Telling Him the truth about your doubts is not a lack of faith. It is talking to Him, and that is where faith starts.

2 Doubters in the Bible

David wrote, How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? (Psalm 13:1, NASB). Asaph admitted he almost slipped when he saw the wicked doing well, and it was troublesome in my sight until I came into the sanctuary of God (Psalm 73:16-17, NASB).

John the Baptist, who had pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God, sat in prison and sent a message asking, Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else? (Matthew 11:3, NASB). Jesus did not scold him. He sent back the evidence. The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the dead are raised, and the poor have the gospel preached to them (Matthew 11:5, NASB).

Jude told the church, have mercy on some, who are doubting (Jude 1:22, NASB). If the Bible tells us to be gentle with doubters, God is gentle with them too.

3 Thomas and the scars

Thomas was not in the room the first time the risen Jesus appeared. When the others told him, he said he would not believe unless he saw the nail marks for himself. A week later Jesus came back, and He went straight to Thomas.

Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.

John 20:27 (NASB)

Jesus did not wait for Thomas to fix his doubt on his own. He came to him and gave him what he needed. Thomas answered, My Lord and my God! (John 20:28, NASB). The man known for doubting made one of the clearest statements of faith in the Gospels.

Then Jesus said something for us. Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed (John 20:29, NASB). We do not get to touch the scars. We do have the testimony of the people who did, written down so that we may believe.

4 When people tell you it did not happen

Some doubts come from inside. Others come from people who sound very sure of themselves. John Shelby Spong, a retired Episcopal bishop, wrote an article titled Resurrection: Myth or Reality? He argued that Easter's power does not depend on a body walking out of a tomb, and that modern people should let go of the literal story.

Tom Bethell answered him in an article titled The Resurrection vs. the Revisionists. He pointed out that the first disciples, including Peter and the women who visited the tomb, were skeptical too. They did not expect a resurrection. He also pointed to Paul, who put it bluntly.

and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

1 Corinthians 15:17 (NASB)

Paul did not think the resurrection was a nice idea. He thought it was the whole thing. Then he gave the good news: But now Christ has been raised from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:20, NASB).

5 What to do with your doubts

Bring them to God. James wrote that if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach (James 1:5, NASB). Without reproach means He will not make you feel stupid for asking.

Bring them to the Word. Read the Gospels. Many doubts shrink when you see what He actually said and did.

Bring them to people. Find a mature believer you trust and be honest.

Keep doing what you know is right while you wait for answers. When the psalmist was in despair, he talked to his own soul: Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him (Psalm 42:5, NASB).

6 What your salvation depends on

Here is something that may take a weight off your shoulders. Your salvation does not depend on how strong your faith feels today. It depends on how strong the One you trust is.

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

1 John 5:11-13 (NASB)

Weak faith in a strong Savior saves. Strong faith in the wrong thing does not. Christ died for our sins and was raised on the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3-4, NASB), and He holds on to His people. He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6, NASB).

If you have never trusted Him, start with the father's prayer. I want to believe. Help my unbelief. Then tell Him you know you have sinned and ask Jesus to save you. He will not turn you away (John 6:37, NASB).

When Faith Has Questions

Doubt is not the end of faith. This book looks at the honest doubters in the Bible, how Jesus met Thomas, what to do when people tell you the resurrection did not happen, and why your salvation depends on a strong Savior, not strong feelings.

I do believe; help my unbelief.

Mark 9:24 (NASB)

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