

The Struggle Between Faith & Doubt **When Doubt Goes Bad**

I. Introduction

- A. Real faith puts trust in a person!
- B. Genesis 2:17 (NAS) *“But from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”*
- C. Genesis 3:1 (NAS) *Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’”*
- D. Satan’s one lie is to cast critical doubt on God’s character!

II. When Doubt Goes Bad

A. Skepticism

- 1. Underneath the surface of the skeptic is fear, fear of being disappointed.
- 2. John 20:25 (NAS) *“Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”*

B. Cynicism

- 1. The dynamic beneath cynicism is a fear of accepting responsibility.
- 2. John 18:38a (NAS) *Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?”*
- 3. Matthew 27:24 (NAS) *When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this Man’s blood; see to that yourselves.”*

C. Unbelief

- 1. Unbelief is refusal to trust.
 - a. What do you want to be true?
 - b. What do you want to believe?
 - c. Who are you willing to surrender your life to?
- 2. How do we respond to those doubts?
- 3. Proverbs 3:5-6 (NAS) *⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.*
- 4. John 1:12 (NAS) *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.*

5. Matthew 10:32-33 (NAS) ³²“Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. ³³But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.”

III. Conclusion