

**Easter 2023**

“How Doubt Can Catalyze Faith”

Matthew 28:16-20

The disciples not only \_\_\_\_\_ before they saw the risen Christ; they continued to doubt even after spending time with him.

Doubt can be a catalyst for genuine, deepening, and \_\_\_\_\_ faith.

**How Your Doubts Can Catalyze Your Faith**

1. Trace your doubts back to their \_\_\_\_\_.

We have \_\_\_\_\_ about how God should act or behave or how he should or should not answer our prayers.

If God is big enough to blame, he’s big enough to \_\_\_\_\_ us.

A god who does your \_\_\_\_\_, a god you can control, is neither powerful enough to intervene nor wise enough to trust.

Some of our most intimate prayers can be our most \_\_\_\_\_ prayers.

2. Reexamine the \_\_\_\_\_ of your doubt.

3. Follow Jesus with your \_\_\_\_\_.

---

Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



## Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What is one of your favorite Easter weekend traditions?
3. Read Matthew 28:16-20. The word used for "doubted" in v. 17 can also be translated "hesitated." The only other usage of the term in the New Testament is found in Matthew 14:31 (see below). What do you think was going through the minds of the disciples who doubted or hesitated even after seeing the risen Christ?  
Matthew 14: <sup>29</sup> ...Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"
4. What is a circumstance or question that you might (or do) find hard to face with faith and confidence in God?
5. Why persevere in prayer in times when we doubt God's love or his presence or his goodness?
6. Pray Psalm 13, even if the Psalmist's lament is not your experience right now.  
Psalm 13:1-6  
How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?  
How long must I wrestle with my thoughts  
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?  
How long will my enemy triumph over me?  
Look on me and answer, Lord my God.  
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,  
and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"  
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.  
But I trust in your unfailing love;  
my heart rejoices in your salvation.  
I will sing the Lord's praise,  
for he has been good to me.
7. Why do you think doubt can be a catalyst for or strengthener of our faith?
8. Write a short prayer psalm for a situation you might face in the future or a situation you are facing now (look back at question 4). This is not for sharing in your group.