

Subject to Doubt

LESSON 6 – OUTLINE

- I. The reason most people have the problems they do is because they aren't controlling their thinking.
 - A. Unless you do something specifically to keep your mind on the Lord, it will naturally go somewhere else.
 - B. When you study and meditate in God's Word, it changes the way you think.
 - C. As your thinking changes, so does your life.
 - D. That's why you must get to where you're dominated by the Word of God.
- II. I know by dealing firsthand with hundreds of people on a regular basis that many folks are struggling.
 - A. They want me to wave my hand over them to take away their fears.
 - B. If you would just take God's Word and use it yourself, you wouldn't have to follow people around from meeting to meeting begging them to pray for you.
 - C. When you're sowing the seed (Word of God) and waiting for it to increase and grow to the point that it will bring liberty in your life, don't be so stubborn or proud that you won't go to others for help and ask them to pray for you.
 - D. But don't be like those people who refuse to take personal responsibility.
 - E. They try to substitute someone like me or a church pastor for themselves seeking the Lord.
 - F. That's just not going to work.
 - G. If you aren't going to take the Word firsthand, then you aren't going to mature.
- III. The Lord dealt with John the Baptist's doubt by referring him back to the Word of God.

Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

Matthew 11:2-3

- A. At one time, John was absolutely certain Jesus was the Messiah.
 - B. But John wasn't so sure after being in prison for an unspecified amount of time.
 - C. He had even been given a sign from God regarding Jesus being the Messiah.
 - D. Some people think, *If I was one of Jesus' twelve disciples, I wouldn't struggle with doubt. If I could see a vision, if I had a tangible tingling in my hands, if I could hear an audible voice from God—then I would believe.*
 - E. John had every one of those things (John 1:33 and Matt. 3:16-17), yet he doubted.
- IV. It doesn't matter who you are or how strong in faith you've been, everyone is capable of doubt.
- A. Negative circumstances tend to just beat faith out of you and cause doubt to come.

Hope deferred maketh the heart sick.

Proverbs 13:12

- B. If you're in negative circumstances, your hope has been deferred and you aren't seeing things come to pass the way you thought you should, you could also fall into this same trap.
 - C. John the Baptist was the greatest man who had ever lived on the face of the earth up until this time.
 - D. Yet he was subject to doubt.
- V. In your Christian life, you must continue to seek the Lord.
- A. Are you someone who only seeks God every once in a while?
 - B. Do you just seek Him when your back is against the wall so you can receive deliverance and then go back to your carnal ways?
 - C. You need to be on guard and be watchful.
 - D. You need to recognize that unbelief is like gravity—it's always pulling.
 - E. You can rise above it by applying the power of God in your life, but you can't just turn your faith engine off and coast.

- F. You may float and go farther than someone else, but the moment you switch off that power of faith, you're headed down.
- G. You need to maintain your focus on the Lord and resist—actively fight against—doubt (James 4:7).

Subject to Doubt

LESSON 6 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Proverbs 23:7. Even though this person eats and drinks with you, where is his heart?
2. Read Psalm 19:8. What do the statutes of the Lord do?
3. What does the commandment of the Lord do?
4. Read Matthew 11:2-3. John sent two of his disciples to Jesus after he heard what?
5. According to Luke 1:15, in whose sight would John be great?
 - A. His peers'
 - B. His boss's
 - C. His parents'
 - D. The Lord's
 - E. The Pharisees'
6. Read John 3:30. **“He must increase, but I _____ decrease.”**
7. Read Matthew 3:16-17. How did the Spirit of God descend?
8. **“This is my _____ Son, in whom I am _____ pleased.”**
 - A. “Favorite,” “always”
 - B. “Last,” “also”
 - C. “Beloved,” “well”
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above
9. Read Luke 3:22. Who descended in bodily shape?
10. Read John 1:33. The Spirit who descended and remained on Jesus is whom Jesus would do what with?
11. According to Matthew 14:3-4, why was John put in prison?
12. Read Proverbs 13:12. What happens when what is desired comes?
13. Read Revelation 22:20. Jesus said he *might* come quickly?
14. According to Isaiah 61:1-2, what is the Spirit of the Lord about?

15. Read Luke 4:18-19. Whose ministry is this describing?
16. Read Luke 4:21. When was this scripture fulfilled?
17. According to Acts 1:6, the disciples were asking if Jesus was about to do what with the kingdom?
18. Read Matthew 11:11. Who is greater than John the Baptist?
19. Read Luke 7:28. John the Baptist was a prophet, but he was _____ than a prophet.
20. Read James 4:7. Does this scripture indicate that God will make you submit to Him and resist the devil?

Subject to Doubt

LESSON 6 – SCRIPTURES

PROVERBS 23:7

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

PSALM 19:8

The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

MATTHEW 11:2-3

Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, [3] And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

LUKE 1:15

For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

JOHN 3:30

He must increase, but I must decrease.

MATTHEW 3:16-17

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: [17] And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

LUKE 3:22

And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

JOHN 1:33

And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

MATTHEW 14:3-4

For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife. [4] For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her.

PROVERBS 13:12

Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.

REVELATION 22:20

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

ISAIAH 61:1-2

The Spirit of the LORD GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; [2] To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn.

LUKE 4:18-19

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, [19] To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

LUKE 4:21

And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

ACTS 1:6

When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

MATTHEW 11:11

Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

LUKE 7:28

For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

James 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.