

# DOUBT IS A HORRIBLE THING

## John 6:60-71

### INTRODUCTION:

Doubt is a horrible thing.

It comes as a result of dwindling faith.

Many times in the scripture Jesus reminds his disciples about having true faith. (Matt 14:22-33).

- The story here is about Peter taking his eyes off the Lord, as he starts to doubt the ability of Jesus to sustain his ability to reach out to him.

What is the end result?

- He falls and fails to carry on walking to the Lord. But it was the Lord then who reached out to him, and lifted him out of his doubt.

Doubt comes as a result of not really believing that your faith is sufficient and so it wanes' to a point where it is no more faith but doubt instead.

This is no way for a Christian to live or to think and there is no place for it if we say that we have committed our life to our savior our Lord?

- Well what does God say about all that?

We tend to believe that we are able to keep that faith on our own, and therefore we are ok.

- Well it is not ok?
- We need to realize that it is God who not only supplies all our needs, but it is the Father who draws us to Him. This is only possible when we begin to know or figure out who our LORD really is.

### John 6:44-45

<sup>44</sup> No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

- How does the Father draw him?

<sup>45</sup> It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

1. It is only by the Word of the Lord that we can begin to understand who Jesus and the Father is?

2. Without the Word of God, we would wonder aimlessly in life, and never come to the point of salvation.

**Acts 4:12** Neither is there **salvation in any other**: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

**1 Timothy 2:5** For there is one God, and **one mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

3. The bible says that there is no salvation in any other but by our Lord Jesus.
4. But even though we hear, it is still not enough to bring us unto salvation.
5. A mere understanding of the scriptures is insufficient in itself.
6. There has to be a point in which a person is prepared to submit themselves, to acknowledge to God that he is a sinner in need of the savior, and to further acknowledge that Jesus Christ is God. (that we are a condemned person).

The 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter of John and here in verse 60-71, the scripture reminds us all of an event that other followers of Jesus Christ our Lord had to ask and had to face for themselves.

- At some point in our life we will have to face those very same questions, and decisions in our own lives.

1. What will your answer be?

**So let's now look at the text and revisit that faith lesson.**

Picture for yourself in your mind's eye that you have just witnessed an event; where Jesus has just fed five thousand people, to a point where they were so full and could not eat any more.

So much food was left over that the disciples gathered together 12 extra baskets of food that could not be eaten by the multitude.

2. What a scene it must have been, and what a miracle it was, that was seen by all those hungry people!

People became interested in the Lord for the wrong reasons, and decided it was a good idea just to follow after him, to see what next he would bring them.

- We meet up again in the scriptures that after having fed the hungry physically, our Lord wanted to feed them spiritually.

**So we next see our Lord preaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.**

**John 6:**<sup>59</sup> These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.

Jesus had taught them about who he was, and that they needed to believe in him. But what doubt had crossed their minds. Even though he had just finished feeding the five thousand hungry mouths.

- Does that not remind us of ourselves sometimes. When we have doubt that Jesus will not be able to help us. That if we ask him.....he will not hear us or do anything about our situation.
- But.....

**This is what Jesus said:**

**John 6: 47-58**

<sup>47</sup> Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

<sup>48</sup> I am that bread of life.

<sup>49</sup> Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

<sup>50</sup> This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

<sup>51</sup> **I am the living bread which came down from heaven:** if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

<sup>52</sup> The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?

<sup>53</sup> Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

<sup>54</sup> Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

<sup>55</sup> For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

<sup>56</sup> He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

<sup>57</sup> As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

<sup>58</sup> This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

1. There was no evidence of belief in most of those who came to listen as he spoke in the synagogue.
2. The Jews mainly, had come to hear what they already had perceived from others.

3. Their intentions were not honorable, and their motives were selfish.
4. Doubt was foremost in their minds not faith and humility.

**3. Let not this one sided thought distract us from what really was at stake here.**

The gentiles were just as to blame for their doubt.

1. The question from our Lord did not just centre on the Jews but was directed at all who were present there that day during his preaching.
2. Just like today there are those who still cast doubt on the Lords ability to do what he said he would do.

**<sup>60</sup> Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?**

1. Was it the figure of speech that had upset the crowd? (His meat & blood)
2. Or was it the fact that they had to commit to Christ.
3. As he explained they had to become like Him in spirit.
4. The manna from heaven was a gift from God to sustain the Israelites in the wilderness. It was never intended to save them spiritually. It was God's gift of love for them at the time, and a shadow of the real bread to come.
  - Our Lord draws the analogy of Him being that real bread which "is able to save".
  - People would have to die to self, and live in Christ if they were to be accepted by the Father in heaven.

The real reason for doubt was their lack of faith.

- Perhaps the real reason for the lack of faith was because they preferred to live the way they were already living. The same as today with people.
- Trusting in self can be a pretty comforting place to be in if you have everything in life?

The phrase "**who can hear it**" which came from his disciples was a sign of their lack of commitment and a sure sign of doubt.

**<sup>61</sup> When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?**

1. No one can fool the Lord? If they thought that they could get away with the outcome of no commitment they were very mistaken.
2. The Lord knew what the murmur was all about. So he confronted them and asked them directly. "Do I offend you?"
3. That is really what was going on. To them they had been offended and sought their current religion as a better way of life.
4. Is that not what people do today?. They are offended by Jesus.

**<sup>62</sup> What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?**

1. The question asked by the Lord was to affirm to them that they would probably still not believe in who he said he was. Even if they could physically see Him ascend to heaven.
2. Even this would become a stumbling block to them if they actually did witness an event like that.
3. At the same time the question reminds them of where he eternally came from, and reaffirms his position with God His Father in heaven and Jesus being as one God.

<sup>63</sup> **It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**

1. The Lord reminds them that it is God who changes a person from the realm of unsaved to saved. From being dead away from Christ to being alive in Christ.
2. He reminds them that it is the spirit which belongs to God. The flesh profits nothing and has no part in salvation.
3. It is the Spirit that needs changing and that is what brings eternal life.
4. The bible reminds us again in John 4:23-24 that those who worship God must worship him in spirit and in truth because God seeks such to worship him.

**John 4: 23** <sup>23</sup> But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. <sup>24</sup> **God is a Spirit:** and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

5. When God made man, it was the spirit breathed into him that gave him life. It is that same spirit that needs to be changed or quickened.

**Genesis 2:7** And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into **his nostrils the breath of life**; and man became a living soul.

<sup>64</sup> **But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.**

1. The Lord is omnipotent (all knowing) and knows all things.
2. We cannot pull the wool over his eyes.
3. The fact that the Jews were being rebellious and defiant was not going unnoticed by our Lord.

**Jeremiah 23:24**

Can any hide himself **in secret** places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord.

**Revelation 19:6**

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God **omnipotent** reigneth.

4. Even today the Lord is aware of who will betray him?

<sup>65</sup> **And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. (if you believe; you will be accepted of the Father).**

1. It is God the Father who is the one that will draw believers unto Him. We cannot draw ourselves into Gods realm.
2. John 6:<sup>44</sup> No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.
3. It is God who gives us the ability to trust in Him when we have heard His Word.
4. It is our sinful hearts which can cause us to reject His word, because of any **“doubt “** that we may have still in our lives.
5. Doubt is a “horrible thing”.

**<sup>66</sup> From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.**

1. The worst thing that we could ever do in our lives is turn our back on the Lord.
2. You may think that this is not possible but it really is possible.
3. The person who “thinks” that it is not possible is the person who needs to remain wary, because pride can easily creep in and destroy your faith.
4. The bible tells us in this verse that “from that time many of his disciples (*followers*) went back and walked no more with him.
5. That means that they had enough of Christianity as they saw it, and was reluctant to keep on following Christ, even though they knew the scriptures.
6. To be a disciple meant that you were a faithful follower. But yet when the time came, **“from that time”** the scripture says they went back, and left the way of Christ.
7. This is so true, that even today, there are and have been **“many”** who have stopped following Jesus. Their faith had turned to DOUBT and their walk was halted in its tracks.
8. **This is probably the saddest moment in the bible, and the saddest time in our Lords presence when we stop walking with him.**
9. This is a time when the cross in our road, can either lead us forward, back, or turn aside to a different direction in life.

**<sup>67</sup> Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?**

1. Our Lord knew that people can be influenced and swayed in life, so he turned to ask the twelve faithful few followers, Will you also go away?
2. It is the same question that Jesus our Lord is asking those who meet at that cross road, a difficult or persuasive point in one’s life.
3. Will you also stop following me Jesus said?

**<sup>68</sup> Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.**

1. Peter was saddened by that question, but he knew the truth and knew it had to be asked.
2. With a firm and positive answer perhaps Peter is replying for all those who trust in our Lord each day. **“To whom shall we go”**.
3. Peter knew that Jesus has the eternal words of life and he was one of the faithful who would continue to follow him later in life to his own death because of it.

**<sup>69</sup> And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.**

1. Peter was sure, because the OT testified of Christ.
2. He referred to Christ as the Son of the living God which the OT bore testimony to.

**Isaiah 9:6**

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The **mighty God**, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

**<sup>70</sup> Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?**

- **What had Jesus done?**

1. The Lord called men to follow him.
2. He said follow me and I will make you fishers of men. It does not mean that because he called them to be fishers of men that they would remain faithful.
3. Even today people start off faithful and dedicated to the ministry of Christ and are soon tired and walk no more with him.

**Matthew 4:18-20** <sup>18</sup> And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. <sup>19</sup> And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. <sup>20</sup> And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

4. The fact that we may know the bible and that we proclaim the Lords name, may not in itself lead us to his saving grace.
5. We have to have a personnel relationship with Christ our Lord (*not for salvation*) and we need to get to know Him. That way he can sustain (protect) us.
6. We need to trust him explicitly for our salvation and trust who He has claimed to be and that is he is not only the Son of God, but he is God himself.

**<sup>71</sup> He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.**

1. The Lord did not just leave it there to say that we need to believe in Him.
  2. But he gave us an example of our short coming.
  3. He concluded that there would be a person however few that would betray Him and he knew who it was going to be.
  4. In this case here our Lord refers to Judas Iscariot.
  5. Remember any one of us could become a Judas if our eyes are not on the Lord.
- Doubt is a horrible thing, and it comes when our eyes are off the Lord Jesus and placed on ourselves for our own security of wellbeing.
  - As a result our faith is diminished, and doubt creeps in.

Keep reading Gods Word, to restore our faith on a daily basis.

Prayer.....