



## What to Do With Doubt

“Many, especially those who are young in the Christian life, are at times troubled with the suggestions of skepticism. There are in the Bible many things which they cannot explain, or even understand, and Satan employs these to shake their faith in the Scriptures as a revelation from God.”—*Steps To Christ* p.74

We are rapidly coming to a close in this series, “Steps to Christ: How to be ready for Jesus to come” We have discussed God’s love for man, the sinner’s need of Christ, coming to Christ through repentance, confession, consecration, faith and acceptance. We’ve also looked at the test of discipleship, growing up into Christ, the work and life of a Christian, how to gain a knowledge of God, and the privilege of prayer (If you missed any of these you can hear them at [www.sandhillssda.org/sermons](http://www.sandhillssda.org/sermons)). But Satan is always at hand to try to replace our faith with doubt. We can *know* all these truths but never really *apply* them to our lives because of debilitating doubt—“Can it possibly be true that Salvation is all God’s work not mine?” So today in our 12<sup>th</sup> sermon in this series we will look at “what to do with doubt.”

**Romans 11:33**—“It is impossible for finite minds fully to comprehend the character or the works of the Infinite One.”—*ibid* p. 74. That’s why Paul expresses his awe at the wisdom and knowledge of God. This is bothersome to some because they think they have to understand everything. But just as there are phenomena all around us in the natural world which we don’t understand fully although we accept and use them, there are mysteries about the natural world’s Creator that we don’t understand. God is too infinite to be placed under a microscope and examined.

**Romans 11:34-36**—In reality the fact that God can’t be shoved into a human sized understanding is good news. It means that the creator is still greater than the creation—If He were not, then we would have no one on which to rely.

“God never asks us to believe, without giving sufficient evidence upon which to base our faith. His existence, His character, the truthfulness of His word, are all established by testimony that appeals to our reason; and this testimony is abundant. Yet God has never removed the possibility of doubt. Our faith must rest upon evidence, not demonstration. Those who wish to doubt will have opportunity; while those who really desire to know the truth will find plenty of evidence on which to rest their faith.”—*ibid* p 74

**2 Peter 3:16**—It’s true, there are “difficulties of Scripture [which] have been urged by skeptics as an argument *against* the Bible; but so far from this, they constitute a *strong evidence* of its divine inspiration. If it contained no account of God but that which we could easily comprehend; if His greatness and majesty could be grasped by finite minds, then the Bible would not bear the unmistakable credentials of divine authority. The very grandeur and mystery of the themes presented should inspire faith in it as the word of God.”—*ibid* pp. 75, 76 italics mine

**John 3:8**—The Bible presents themes and truths so broad and deep that it can challenge the brightest mind yet the principals of and steps to salvation are made plain enough for a 5 year old<sup>1</sup> to understand. Although we don’t understand How God saves us or how He comes in and transforms us we can see evidence in His word and in our world that He does. We grasp what we can and believe in faith the rest.

**2 Peter 3:16**—There is another truth we find in this passage. While God want’s us to use our God given reason and intellect to study out truth (**2 Timothy 2:15**), we must come at our quest humbly. Too many people seek to find what they believe in the Bible instead of believing what they find in it so they distort the Scripture to make it line up with their ideas. And when they find something contrary to their pre-conceived ideas they doubt God’s word. “When we come to the Bible, reason must acknowledge an authority superior to itself, and heart and intellect must bow to the great I AM.”—*ibid* p. 78

**John 3:18-20**—“Disguise it as they may, the real cause of doubt and skepticism, in most cases, is the love of sin. The teachings and restrictions of God’s word are not welcome to the proud, sin-loving heart, and those who are unwilling to obey its requirements are ready to doubt its authority. In order to arrive at truth, we must have a sincere desire to know the truth and a willingness of heart to obey it.”—*ibid* p. 79

**Psalms 34:8**—There is one doubt buster that is available to all—the genius and the illiterate—experience. God invites us to prove for ourselves the reality of His Word. He says “ask and you will receive” John 16:24. His promises never fail. As you experience them, your doubts will burn away.



The twelfth step in order to have a relationship with God and be ready to meet Him is to look humbly for evidence of God’s truth, act upon that evidence and let the results burn away your doubt.