**Do You Doubt?**

James 1:5-8

In God’s process of saving and transforming us, we’ve seen the crucial importance of abiding in Christ and of surren- dering to the will and work of the Spirit. God often uses trials (pruning) as part of this shaping. It’s in these painful times that the evil one often plants **doubt** in our hearts in an attempt to undermine our faith. We must overcome!

**I. How to Define Doubt?**

1. **Doubt is not…**
2. **Doubt is…**
3. **Unbelief is…**

**II. What are the Sources of Doubt?**

1. **Intellectual Questions -**

1. **Hardship & Suffering -**
2. **Immensity of Demand** **-**
3. **Believing the Lie** -

**III. How to Deal with Doubt:**

1. **Confession** (Ps. 73) -
2. **Clinging** (Mark 9:24) **-**
3. **Community** (Heb. 10:22-25) **-**

Doubt can assail us as we attempt to walk by faith and not by sight. It is a normal part of the believer’s life. It is how we respond in the face of doubt that will determine our ability to stay in vital connection with Christ and emerge stronger and victorious in our faith journey.

**Going Deeper:**

1. **Repeat:** In your walk with Christ, do you find it easy, or at times, difficult to completely trust God to work His will in situations that seem to be very challenging?
2. As you have studied scripture, do you personally think it is wrong for a Christian to have doubts? Why or why not?
3. In your own words, how would you explain the difference between **doubt** and **disbelief**? Can you see the importance of understanding the distinction?
4. Has God ever asked you to do something way beyond your personal abilities? Did it cause you to doubt? What do you think might be wrong with our focus in those doubting situations?
5. Read **Mark 9:23-24.** What incredibly helpful principle do you see in this desperate father’s response to Christ? Can this be an encouragement?
6. **Personal:** Can you think of a period in the past in which you were going through a major test and you were beginning to doubt God’s faithfulness and His control? How did that experience affect your faith?

**Questions for Our Kids:**

1. Have you ever seen or heard about something that seemed so amazing that you wondered if it was really true?
2. Who helps you the most when you are going through hard experiences? Do you see why parents and good friends are so important in our lives?
3. Have you ever seen God do something so amazing that you knew it had to be Him that did it? How did that make you feel?