BENT **BUT NOT BROKEN**
BY DOUBT

Hebrews 11:1-6 (NIV)

- **Doubt is a problem that has negatively affected almost every person's life.**
- **Many people struggle with doubts about others, themselves, the future and the Lord.**
- **Question – *"What types of doubts do I struggle with, and how have my doubts affected my life?"***
- **Doubt is a negative emotion that robs us of joy and peace in life that must be conquered.**
- **Question – *"How can we overcome our doubts about God in our lives?"***

OVERCOMING DOUBT INVOLVES:

AFFIRMING GOD'S <u>EXISTENCE</u>

- *"From the time the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky and all that God made. They can clearly see His invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuses whatsoever for not knowing God."* (Romans 1:20 NLT)
- *"Only fools say in their hearts, 'There is no God."* (Psalm 14:1)
- **Most people get their ideas about God from the lives and philosophies of their parents.**

OVERCOMING DOUBT INVOVLES:

ASCERTAINING GOD'S <u>CHARACTER</u>

- **Until we know what God is really like – it's hard to trust Him.**
- **Jesus showed us what God is like.**
  - *"Christ is the visible expression of the invisible God."* (Colossians 1:15 Phillips)

Understanding The Lord's Character Allows Us To Trust That:

- **HE <u>KNOWS</u> OUR SITUATION**
  - *"O LORD, You have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my every thought when far away. You chart the path ahead of me and tell me where to stop and rest. Every moment You know where I am. You know what I am going to say even before I say it . . ."* (Psalm 139:1-4 NLT)
  - **The Lord knows: 1) who we are on the inside, 2) what we think, 3) what we do, and 4) what we say (Psalm 139:1-4).**
  - **The Lord also knows the situations we are facing and dealing with.**
  - *"You have seen the crisis of my soul."* (Psalm 31:7 TLB)
  - *"You know how foolish I have been."* (Psalm 69:5 NLT)
- **HE <u>CARES</u> ABOUT OUR LIVES**
  - *"You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in Your bottle. You have recorded each one in Your book."* (Psalm 56:8 NLT)
  - *"He is like a father to us, tender and sympathetic . . . for He knows what we are made of."* (Psalm 103:13-15 TLB)
  - *"God says, 'I have loved you with an everlasting love!"* (Jeremiah 31:3 NIV)
  - *"God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us."* (Romans 5:8 TLB)
- **HE <u>TRANSFORMS</u> CIRCUMSTANCES AND LIVES**
  - JESUS - *"What is impossible for men is possible with God."* (Luke 18:27 GNB)
  - *"I pray you will begin to understand how incredibly great His power is to help those who believe Him . . . the same power that raised Christ from the dead."* (Ephesians 1:20 TLB)
  - *He (the Lord) opens doors, and no one can shut them; He shuts doors, and no one can open them.* (Revelation 3:7)
  - *"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."* (2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV)

OVERCOMING DOUBT INVOLVES:

ACCEPTING GOD'S <u>HELP</u>

- *"God* is *our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble."* (Psalm 46:1 NKJV)
- **To receive the Lord's "help" we must learn to "let go and let God" take over our lives.**

"Letting Go And Letting God" Requires Accepting:

- **GOD'S <u>SON</u> AS OUR SAVIOR**
  - *"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."* (Acts 16:31 NKJV)
- **GOD'S <u>WORD</u> AS OUR STANDARD**
  - *"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do."* (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT)
- **GOD'S <u>WILL</u> AS OUR STRATEGY**
  - *"I desire to do Your will, O my God . . ."* (Psalm 40:8 NIV)
  - *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."* (Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV)
- **GOD'S <u>POWER</u> AS OUR STRENGTH**
  - *"I can do everything God asks me to do with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power."* (Phil 4:13)
  - **We plug into the Lord's power through "believing" and "receiving."**
  - *"When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and through the rivers (great troubles), they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire (oppression), you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you."* (Isaiah 43:2-3 NKJV)
  - **When we plug into the Lord's word, will and power, we can be assured of receiving His help in our lives.**

- **Lots of people doubt their "salvation" from time to time.**

- **Question – *"How can we know that we have been forgiven and accepted by the Lord and that we are headed for heaven?"***

  - **We can know that we are truly "saved" and headed for heaven when:**
    1) **We experience godly changes in our <u>lives</u>**
       - *"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."* (2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV)
       - JESUS – *"You are truly My disciples if you keep obeying My teachings."* (John 8:31 NLT)
    2) **We experience godly changes in the way we <u>love</u> others**
       - JESUS - *"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."* (John 13:35 NLT)
    3) **We experience godly changes in our <u>loyalties</u>**
       - JESUS - *"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money (or anything or anyone else.)."* (Mt 6:24)

- **Question – *"What evidences are there in my life that I am a Christian destined for heaven?"***

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