

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Doubt

"Doubt makes the mountain which faith can move." – Anonymous, from the *Toledo (Ohio) Blade*, Jan. 1931

"Cleave ever to the sunnier side of doubt." – Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *The Ancient Sage*, 68

"I respect faith, but doubt is what gets you an education." – Wilson Mizner, in Alva Johnston, *The Legendary Mizners*

"Through doubt we arrive at the truth." – Cicero

If you have ever doubted the existence of God, then you are normal. It happens to the best of folks. But the concern arises when we are not satisfied with the evidence presented to us.

Most folks have the notion that faith is baseless and without reason or evidence. But that actually is not true. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork" (Psa. 19:1). "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1). Notice that both passages speak of evidence. But if people doubt and choose to ignore what God has provided, He will not be pleased. "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse" (Rom. 1:20).

Perhaps what causes us the most distress are the books and TV programs that would suggest that there is not a God. It is disconcerting to watch a program on *The History Channel*, *A & E*, or *Discover Channel* that explains away what is clearly printed in the sacred text. And it does not help when they have someone interviewed who has a degree, or degrees, that pertain to religion, that cast doubt on what the Bible says.

There is a grave concern that this doubt and uncertainty is causing Christians to be more quiet about their faith. They begin to wonder if there really is a God. They wonder if the Bible is really God's Word. They are told that their faith is baseless and that science is the only real answer. (What is ironic is that science and the Bible are actually in harmony in many ways.)

But what about the most seasoned veterans of the cross when they have doubts? Yes, it is part of being human. Perhaps we can refer to it as the Elijah syndrome. The prophet of old had once stood strong against the prophets of Baal, but in short order his life drastically changed, even to the point of retreating to a cave (1 Kings 18-19). There will likely come a time that you struggle, but take heart, the evidence abounds enough to revive your faith!