

## **FAITH VERSUS DOUBT**

The world today has little faith in anything, whether it be governments, institutions, religion, people, and friends. The world has become skeptical of practically everything. The world in short has lost its faith in humanity.

People once had faith in their governments, but corruption and outright lies to the public in many nations have greatly soured the faith of many. Corruption and misuse of funds have ruined the faith of many. The lack of love and misuse of funds in many religious organizations have crumbled the faith of many. Sinful actions of others and especially of friends have destroyed the faith of many. Tragedies and suffering have challenged the faith of many.

Please turn with me to Luke 18. Jesus asked a question concerning faith and the present world in which we live.

**Luke 18:07** – “And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? **:08** – I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”

Jesus asked the question almost 2000 years ago on whether or not He would find faith on the earth when He returns.

On the other hand, doubt has exploded in the world. The majority of the world has pessimistic doubts on their future. This pessimism and doubt are amplified each day by the unending avalanche of horrific daily news, by the uncontrolled and unpunished violence, suffering and death witnessed each day, and the general loss of hope spreading throughout the world.

In China, the youth have lost all hope. There is now a movement among the youth in China called “Bailan” in Mandarin which literally means “Let it rot”. Because there are not enough good-paying jobs in China for the youth, there is no future for many. This movement is the end result of Chinese youth giving up and giving in to a hopeless future in their lives. They have basically given up on life, on their future, on bettering themselves, on being productive, on having a family, and on being prosperous. They have no faith and hope about their lives, and they have severe doubts about their future success and future happiness.

The Bible presents faith and doubt as opposites leading to two different directions in life and ultimately leading to different outcomes in life.

Brethren, in my message today entitled “Faith Versus Doubt”, I would like to explore the many differences between faith and doubt and the end results of the two totally different paths in our spiritual lives.

But first, as always, we must define our terms. Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary defines “faith” as “allegiance to duty or a person, fidelity to one’s promises, sincerity of intentions, belief and trust in and loyalty to God, complete trust.”

In the Old Testament, the word “faith” in Hebrew is “אֱמוּנָה” (emunah – Strong’s #530 – meaning faith, faithfulness, steadfastness). In the New Testament, the word “faith” in Greek is “πίστις” (pistis – Strong’s #4102 – meaning faith, faithfulness, trust, confidence).

So, in all three languages (Hebrew, Greek, and English), the word “faith” has the same connotations.

Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary defines “doubt” as “uncertainty, a lack of confidence, distrust, an inclination not to believe or accept.”

In the Old Testament, there is not actually a word used for “doubt” in the Hebrew. Doubt is connoted by the absence of faith or faithfulness. In the New Testament, the verb “doubt” in Greek is “διακρίνω” (diakrino – Strong’s #1252 – meaning to doubt, to have misgivings, to waver). Another Greek verb translated as “doubt” is “διστάζω” (distázo – Strong’s #1365 – meaning to doubt, to waver, to shift between opinions, to vacillate).

Now that we have defined our terms, let’s now explore the many differences between faith and doubt and the end results of the two totally different paths in our spiritual lives.

The first point in the differences between faith and doubt is:

### 1) **Faith and doubt are mutually exclusive**

Faith and doubt cannot exist together. Faith and doubt are at opposite ends of the spectrum. There is no middle ground. We either have one or the other.

Please turn with me to Matthew 21. Jesus had just cursed the unfruitful fig tree, which immediately withered away. His disciples marvelled at how quickly the fig tree withered away and died.

**Matthew 21:21** – “Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this *which is done* to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.”

In verse 21, Jesus directly contrasts faith and doubt. The two are mutually exclusive.

Please turn with me to James 1. We must pray in faith. We cannot effectively pray to our Heavenly Father if we are praying with great doubt.

**James 1:05** – “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. **:06** – But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

In verse 6, the Greek verb for “waver” is “διακρίνω” (diakrino), which we have previously reviewed.

The English Standard Version actually translates verse 6 as: “But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.”

James states that people with doubts are unstable and are tossed to and fro with no anchor. Conversely, we can extrapolate that people with faith are stable and rooted and unmovable.

Please turn with me to Hebrews 11. It is hard to explore the subject of faith without turning to the faith chapter of Hebrews 11. To begin with, we read in verse 1 the Biblical definition of faith.

**Hebrews 11:01** – “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

The Greek words in this verse are better translated in the English Standard Version, which is: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Again, assurance and conviction are the exact opposites to doubt and unsureness.

But another important and crucial aspect of faith in our spiritual lives is given in verse 6.

**Hebrews 11:06** – “But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God [ὁ θεὸς – *ho theos* – *the God* – *God Our Father*] must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

So, without faith, without total trust, without deep conviction and assurance in our Heavenly Father, we cannot please Him.

Again, faith and doubt cannot exist together. Faith and doubt are mutually exclusive.

The second point in the differences between faith and doubt is:

## 2) **Faith brings confidence – Doubt brings fear**

As we reviewed previously today, faith and doubt are connoted differently in the Hebrew. Faith has more of a connotation of faithfulness. One way to connote that in Hebrew is the phrase “wait upon the LORD.”

Please turn with me to Isaiah 40, and we will read a well-known scripture which has been part of songs, poems, and artwork.

**Isaiah 40:31** – “But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.”

The Hebrew verb for “wait” in verse 31 is “קָוָה” (qavah – Strong’s #6960 – which appears in the Qal form of the verb in this verse. According to Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon and Strong’s Concordance, the verb “qavah” in the Qal form means “to wait with the connotation of stretching or having tension of enduring.” Therefore, this verb has the connotation of waiting with endurance

and steadfastness and confidence. The phrase “wait upon the LORD” using this verb “qavah” occurs 23 times in the Old Testament.

Please turn with me to Psalm 37, and we will read another verse in the Old Testament using this verb “qavah” in the Qal form and this phrase.

**Psalm 37:09** – “For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.” [*Those who wait with endurance and steadfastness and confidence.*]

Waiting upon Yehovah carries the connotation of having the deep faith, conviction, endurance, and steadfastness to totally rely on our Heavenly Father and to trust in His will in our lives.

Please turn with me to Proverbs 3, where we will read about the way to trust our Heavenly Father.

**Proverbs 3:05** – “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. **:06** – In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

The Hebrew verb for “trust” in verse 5 is “אָמַן” (batá – Strong’s #981 – meaning trust or to have confidence”. So Proverbs 3:05 is instructing us to have confidence in our Heavenly Father. And that confidence takes faith. We are also instructed to not depend on our own understanding. We are also given a promise – acknowledge our Heavenly Father and He will direct our lives.

Faith in our Heavenly Father brings us deep confidence and unbreakable assurance that we can totally depend on our Heavenly Father and that He will indeed direct our lives in accordance with His will. Brethren, do we have that type of faith?

On the opposite side, doubt leads to fear. Please turn with me to Matthew 8, and we will read about a great storm on the Sea of Galilee.

**Matthew 8:23** – “And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. **:24** – And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. **:25** – And his disciples came to *him*, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. **:26** – And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. **:27** – But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!”

Jesus equated fear with the doubt and lack of faith of His disciples. Doubt brings fear.

Please turn with me to Matthew 14, and we will read about Peter walking on the water toward Jesus.

**Matthew 14:25** – “And in the fourth watch of the night [*between 3 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.*] Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. **:26** – And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. **:27** – But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of

good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. **:28** – And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. **:29** – And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. **:30** – But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. **:31** – And immediately Jesus stretched forth *his* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?”

What is amazing is that Peter actually did walk on water. But in verse 30, Peter took his eyes off of Jesus and realized that the storm was all around him with the wind howling, and he became afraid. He doubted. And that miracle of walking on the water when he had faith and focus on Jesus turned to fear when he began to doubt because of his surroundings. And he began to sink into the sea.

Do we find ourselves being like Peter in our lives? Do we lose focus on our Heavenly Father and Jesus when stormy circumstances occur in our lives?

Please turn with me to Deuteronomy 28. One of the curses on the Israelites for their disobedience and rejection of Yehovah in their lives is shown to be doubt and fear.

**Deuteronomy 28:64** – “And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, *even* wood and stone. **:65** – And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind: **:66** – And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life:”

Again and again in the Bible, we are shown that faith brings confidence and doubt brings fear.

Brethren, where are we in our lives with this aspect? Do we live our lives with confidence based in our faith in our Heavenly Father, or do we live our lives with fear based on doubting that our Heavenly Father will do the actions that He promises that He will do?

The third point in the differences between faith and doubt is:

### **3) Faith does not require proof – Doubt requires proof**

The Bible is full of examples of men who had great faith. We will explore just a few of them. The first example is Noah.

Noah – Please turn with me to Genesis 6, and we will review the story of Noah and the Flood.

**Genesis 6:11** – “The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. **:12** – And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. **:13** – And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled

with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. **:14** – Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. [Skip] **:17** – And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; *and* every thing that *is* in the earth shall die. **:18** – But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee. **:19** – And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every *sort* shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep *them* alive with thee; they shall be male and female. **:20** – Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every *sort* shall come unto thee, to keep *them* alive. **:21** – And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather *it* to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them. **:22** – Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.”

Many Biblical scholars believe that the ark was constructed by Noah and his family over a period of 55 to 75 years. During that time, when Noah was preaching to the hostile world as well as building the ark, he undoubtedly endured incessant ridicule and mockery by the people for building an ark far away from water. That took years and decades of faithful resolve to complete the task that our Heavenly Father had given him. That took years and decades of faith in our Heavenly Father.

**Genesis 7:07** – “And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood. [Skip] **:10** – And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth.

So, after spending decades and decades in building the ark, Noah and his family entered the ark. And then, nothing happened. No rain. No storms. No flood. Seven days passed. It took quite a bit of faith to continue to believe what our Heavenly Father had told to Noah. But then, on the eighth day, it began to rain and the flooding began.

Through it all, Noah and his family stayed steadfastly resolute in their faith in our Heavenly Father, no matter the mocking and the abuse that they received for years and even decades. Brethren, do we trust our Heavenly Father even when it appears that nothing is happening, nothing is being done, and nothing is changing?

A second example of great faith is David.

David – Please turn with me to 1 Samuel 17, and we will read about the story of David and Goliath.

**1 Samuel 17:01** – “Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which *belongeth* to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephesdammim. **:02** – And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of

Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines. **:03** – And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and *there was* a valley between them. **:04** – And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height *was* six cubits and a span [*between 7 feet to 9 feet tall*]. **:05** – And *he had* an helmet of brass upon his head, and he *was* armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat *was* five thousand shekels of brass [*approximately 125 pounds*]. **:06** – And *he had* greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. **:07** – And the staff of his spear *was* like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head *weighed* six hundred shekels of iron [*approximately 16 pounds – the whole spear probably weighed over 35 pounds*]: and one bearing a shield went before him. **:08** – And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set *your* battle in array? *am* not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. **:09** – If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. **:10** – And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. **:11** – When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid. [*Skip*] **:26** – And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who *is* this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? [*Skip*] **:32** – And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. [*Skip*] **:32** – David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.”

We know the rest of the story. David confidently went out with just a slingshot and five smooth stones. David killed Goliath with a precise hit to Goliath's forehead with his first slung stone.

David's faith in our Heavenly Father was unwavering even when he went out to battle a much taller, larger, more ferocious, and more powerful foe. David had complete confidence and faith in our Heavenly Father.

Brethren, do we have this same type of faith when we are battling our own Goliaths in our physical and spiritual lives?

A third example of great faith is the Roman Centurion.

Roman Centurion – Please turn with me to Luke 7, and we will read the accounting of the great faith of the Roman Centurion regarding the deathly sickness of his servant.

**Luke 7:01** – “Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum. **:02** – And a certain centurion's servant,

who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die. **:03** – And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant. **:04** – And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this: **:05** – For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue. **:06** – Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof: **:07** – Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed. **:08** – For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth *it*. **:09** – When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. **:10** – And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.”

The Roman Centurion knew very well how authority worked. He had great faith in the authority of Jesus and of our Heavenly Father. He knew that Jesus did not even have to come in person to his house for his servant to be healed. Referring back to Hebrews 11, the Roman Centurion’s faith was based on a conviction of what is not seen.

Brethren, do we have this type of faith? Do we believe with conviction the things we cannot see?

However, there are many examples in the Bible of people who doubted and needed physical proof. The first example is Ancient Israel.

Ancient Israel – Please turn with me to Exodus 17. Even after the miracles of the Passover and the parting of the Red Sea, the Israelites immediately lost faith and doubted Yehovah when they became thirsty.

**Exodus 17:01** – “And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and *there was* no water for the people to drink. **:02** – Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD? **:03** – And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore *is* this *that* thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst? **:04** – And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? They be almost ready to stone me. **:05** – And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. **:06** – Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of



it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. **:07** – And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted *[tested]* the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?”

As soon as the journey became difficult, the Israelites lost hope and trust in Yehovah, their God and Mighty One. They immediately lost faith and doubted that Yehovah would take care of them. They doubted His promises.

Brethren, when we face troubles and problems in our lives, do we immediately crumble? Do we immediately doubt our Heavenly Father? Do we immediately lose faith in His promises? Are we in many ways just like the Ancient Israelites?

A second example of people who doubted and needed physical proof is Gideon.

Gideon – Please turn with me to Judges 6, and we will read about Gideon being chosen to lead the Israelite armies against the armies of Midian.

**Judges 6:01** – “And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years. **:02** – And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: and because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds. *[Skip]* **:11** – And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abi-ezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. **:12** – And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. *[Skip]* **:16** – And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man. **:17** – And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then show me a sign that you talk with me. *[Skip]* **:36** – And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said, **:37** – Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said. **:38** – And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water. **:39** – And Gideon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew. **:40** – And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.”

Gideon needed physical proof from Yehovah with two signs.

A third example of people who doubted and needed physical proof is Thomas.

Thomas – Please turn with me to John 20. Thomas had to have physical proof that Jesus had indeed been resurrected.

**John 20:24** – “But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. **:25** – The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. **:26** – And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: *then* came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace *be* unto you. **:27** – Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust *it* into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. **:28** – And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. **:29** – Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed *are* they that have not seen, and *yet* have believed.”

Brethren, in these three examples, because of their doubt and lack of faith, people had to have physical proof that our Heavenly Father would keep His promises.

Are we more like Noah, David, and the Roman Centurion, or are we more like the Ancient Israelites, Gideon, and Thomas?

The fourth and final point in the differences between faith and doubt is:

#### **4) Faith is the building block to love – Doubt is the building block to sin**

Please turn with me to 2 Peter 1, where the Apostle Peter shows the building blocks to Godly agape love.

**2 Peter 1:05** – “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; **:06** – And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; **:07** – And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.”

The Apostle Peter wrote that faith is the building block on which virtue, knowledge, self-control, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and ultimately Godly agape love are based. It is the foundation of our having and expressing in our lives the Godly agape love that our Heavenly Father has for us and mankind.

Please turn with me to 1 Corinthians 13, and we will read part of the love chapter.

**1 Corinthians 13:01** – “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. **:02** – And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. **:03** – And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. **:04** – Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, **:05** – Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; **:06** – Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; **:07** – Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. [Skip] **:13** – “And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.”

In this last verse, the Apostle Paul lists three important and crucial parts of our lives which abide together. And two inextricably linked components are faith and love. But whereas faith is a building block to Godly agape love, doubt is a building block to sin.

The first sin committed by mankind was the result of doubt. Please turn with me to Genesis 3. Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden, a perfect harmonious environment that our Heavenly Father and Jesus had created for man. Adam and Eve were perfect in their obedience to our Heavenly Father until Eve's conversation with the evil one.

**Genesis 3:01** – “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? **:02** – And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: **:03** – But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. **:04** – And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: **:05** – For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. **:06** – And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. **:07** – “And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.”

Eve doubted our Heavenly Father and His instructions. Her doubt led her to sin which led to Adam sinning, which led to both of them being driven out of the Garden of Eden.

Another example of doubt leading to sin is given again in the example of the Ancient Israelites. Please turn with me to Numbers 13. Just as promised, Yehovah had led the Israelites to the edge of the Promised Land. It was theirs for the taking. But what happened?

**Numbers 13:25** – “And they returned from searching of the land after forty days. **:26** – And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land. **:27** – And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this *is* the fruit of it. **:28** – Nevertheless the people *be* strong that dwell in the land, and the cities *are* walled, *and* very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. **:29** – The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan. **:30** – And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well

able to overcome it. **:31** – But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they *are* stronger than we. **:32** – And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, *is* a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it *are* men of a great stature. **:33** – And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, *which come* of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight. *[With that evil and false report, what did the people do?]*

**Number 14:01** – “And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. **:02** – And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! **:03** – And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? **:04** – And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.”

The Israelites doubted that Yehovah would protect them, that He would keep His promises to them, that they could and would inherit the Promised Land. Instead, they rebelled against Yehovah and began making plans to return to Egypt. Yehovah then prohibited them from entering into the Promised Land. Their children would inherit this land 40 years later.

Brethren, are we using our deep faith in our Heavenly Father as the first building block to Godly agape love? Or are we allowing doubts to enter our thoughts, undermining our confidence and trust in our Heavenly Father, which will ultimately lead to sin?

Brethren, today we have explored four differences between faith and doubt.

- 1) Faith and doubt are mutually exclusive
- 2) Faith brings confidence – Doubt brings fear.
- 3) Faith does not require proof – Doubt requires proof.
- 4) Faith is the building block to love – Doubt is the building block to sin.

As a final scripture, please turn with me to 1 Peter 1. Faith is not easy. We will be tested. That is why we have been called out in this life to have a relationship with our Heavenly Father and with Jesus. But we must endure so that we can have eternal life in our Heavenly Father's Kingdom.

**1 Peter 1:06** – “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: **:07** – That the trial [testing] of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: **:08** – Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet

believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: **:09** – Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls.”

Brethren, the end or goal or purpose of our faith is eternal spiritual salvation – our entry into the Kingdom of our Heavenly Father. Just like there were two trees in the Garden of Eden, there are two completely different paths that we can choose: one of faith or one of doubt.

Brethren, which path will you choose?