

**Scripture:** Mark 9:14-29

**Singing:** 210:1-5 – 202:1-3 – 235:1-3 – 92:1

The Doubting Believer I. His Faith II. His Doubts III. His Prayer
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**I. THE DOUBTING BELIEVER'S FAITH**

A. The confession of saving faith always has a context of need: vs. 17-18

B. His confession of faith was a struggle yet genuine: vs. 22b

C. Is this man's confession heard in your *private room with God*?

**II. THE DOUBTING BELIEVER'S DOUBTS**

A. The man's confession of 'unbelief' is his confession about his doubts

1. Doubts are a common companion to saving faith

2. Doubts do dishonor God and therefore received Jesus rebukes (Matt 14:31)

● *Oh, it is a sad thing that they who have the character of believers, should so often exhibit the spirit of doubters! It is very sad that any of His redeemed and adopted children should doubt the grace and love of their heavenly Father! It would indeed be incredible, were it not so extensively true, that those who know themselves to be guilty and helpless, and who, for that very reason, should the more gladly grasp at promised mercy, do nevertheless recoil from the promises, and hesitate to rest upon the Word of God – their own merciful, and gracious God. If we did this to a trustworthy fellow human, who has proven his worth and sincerity, how deeply his feelings would be wounded, were we to doubt the purity of his motives, as well as the truthfulness of his words! And yet such detestable conduct towards a fellow creature but feebly represents that dishonor which doubting Christians are continually heaping upon their best friend – their loving and bleeding Savior – their patient and forbearing and forgiving God! (David Pitcairn 1870)*

B. What are the doubts that often nag true believers?

1. Usually not about

a. Jesus as the only Savior (Acts 4:12)

b. the blood of the Lamb as the only way of reconciliation (1 Peter 1:19)

3. But the doubts are whether I partake in the benefits of salvation as declared so in the Gospel promises like Acts 13:39; John 3:15; 5:24

### III. THE DOUBTING CHRISTIAN'S PRAYER

A. He took His doubts to only One Who could deliver him from them

B. How does Jesus lead us to a full assurance of our personal salvation?

1. Only by **strengthening faith** in the testimony of the God Who cannot lie

a. don't seek it in *special experiences or revelations* (Canons V, 10, rej. 5)

b. seek it in God's ordained *means of grace* He has promised to bless in the **use of them** (see Heidelberg Catechism q/a 66)

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### GEMS ABOUT ASSURANCE

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That faith which is never assaulted with doubting is but a fancy. Assuredly that assurance which is ever secure is but a dream. (Robert Bolton)

Though no man merits assurance by his obedience, yet God usually crowns obedience with assurance. (Thomas Brooks)

Assurance of salvation is the fruit that grows out of the root of faith.  
(S. Charnock)

No less a person than God is needed to assure of God's love. (Richard Sibbes)

A letter may be written without being sealed. So grace may be written in the heart while the Spirit has not yet set His seal of assurance to it. (T. Watson)

The jewel of assurance is best kept in the cabinet of a humble heart. (T. Watson)