

STILL BELIEVING ANYWAY – 1 of 3  
The Benefit of Doubt  
February 1, 2026

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DOUBT IS **NOT THE ENEMY** OF FAITH, **BUT** IS OFTEN **A PATHWAY** TO A DEEPER AND MORE MEANINGFUL FAITH.

**Relatability Principle**

- **Sarah and Abraham:** God, You say we're going to have a child at this age? That's impossible! (Genesis 17:17, 18:12)
- **Israelites:** God, You've done miracles before, but we don't trust You now. (Exodus 16:2-3)
- **Gideon:** God, if You're really with me, prove it—one more time. (Judges 6:36-40)
- **John the Baptist:** Jesus, I knew You were the One, but now I'm not so sure. (Matthew 11:2-3)
- **Thomas:** Jesus, I won't believe unless I see it with my own eyes. (John 20:24-29)

<sup>16</sup>Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.  
--Matthew 28:16-17 NIV

<sup>18</sup>Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."  
--Matthew 28:18-20 NIV

**WHY DO YOU DOUBT?**

1. You have questions you can't answer.
2. You face situations that seem unfair.
3. You experience hurts you can't resolve.

<sup>24</sup>One of the twelve disciples, Thomas ... was not with the others when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>They told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But [Thomas] replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side."  
--John 20:24-25 NLT

<sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"  
--John 14:5 NIV

<sup>16</sup>Then Thomas ... said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."  
John 11:16 NIV

<sup>26</sup>Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said. <sup>27</sup>Then [Jesus] said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!" <sup>28</sup>"My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed.  
--John 20:26-28 NLT

**GOD IS NOT DISTANT IN YOUR DOUBTS.**

<sup>4</sup>Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; ...  
--Psalm 23:4 NKJV