



Dealing with Doubt 1 – *Consider the Options* {Andy Stanley}

INTRODUCTION

We all have our doubts. At one point or another we have asked ourselves, “Does this stuff really work?” “Is it worth it?” Maybe you’re a college student and you get tired of being left out in your fraternity/sorority. Maybe you’re trying to live out your faith at work and you aren’t seeing any impact...except that people think you’re weird. Maybe you are watching someone suffer and God isn’t responding. So what are we to do? We know that God honors faith, but where do our doubts fit in? In this session we’ll learn to consider the options when dealing with doubt.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When in your life have you struggled with doubts about Christianity? What was the cause of these doubts?
2. Doubts can be dangerous, if we handle them in the wrong way. Giving into our doubts often leads to bad decisions. Talk about a decision that you made when you doubted God and went your own way. What were the results?
3. Doubts can also be dangerous if you ignore them. It isn’t honoring to God when you blindly accept things because you think that’s what Christians are supposed to do. Do you presently have any doubts that you haven’t voiced?
4. Doubts can be healthy, if we handle them in the right way. Have you ever wrestled through your doubts and as a result you gained greater insight into God or greater intimacy in your relationship with Him?
5. At the height of Jesus’ ministry, in John 6:25-59, Jesus spoke some words that caused many of His followers to leave (v. 66). Read John 6:60-69. Peter dealt with his doubt by considering the options. He realized that to walk away from Jesus was to walk towards something else. So, if not Jesus, who? What are the other options for you?
6. Looking back on your life, how would it be different if you had abandoned your faith?

THINK ABOUT IT

Spend time considering the options. If you were to abandon Christianity, what would be the other options? Describe what your life would look like if you chose one of these paths.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Make a list of the aspects of Christianity that you have doubts about and the parts of Christianity you are convinced of. In light of this list, what are you going to do with your doubts?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

“Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.’”
John 6:68