

STRONG IN FAITH
Questioning Doubt Series Summary
Romans 4:16-25

The Letter to the Romans was written to build a _____
and _____ gospel community.

Characteristics of Faith

- Faith refuses to rely on appearances. (16-19)

“as good as dead”

- Faith is not _____ or gullible;
it is skeptical of _____.
- Faith _____ the _____ of the _____. (20)

waver =

- Faith _____ on God’s _____

“grew strong in his faith”

- Faith gives all _____ to _____. (20)

Series Summary

Why do we doubt?

- Sometimes it’s because we are spiritually divided (James 4:7-10)
- Sometimes it’s because we are intellectually limited – we “know in part” (1 Corinthians 13:12)
- Other times we might be physically vulnerable (1 Kings 19:4-6) or emotionally unstable (Luke 7:19).
- At times we might face doubt simply because we are divinely called to experience more than we can handle (“perplexed,” so that as “jars of clay” we might demonstrate “that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us” 2 Corinthians 4:7-8).

What are some practical strategies for facing doubt?



SPOT IT – Doubt comes in many forms (e.g. skepticism, confusion, hesitation, curiosity). We need to be aware of what we are facing and wise in our response. Don't be afraid to talk to God and appropriate people about your doubts (Psalm 13).



FLIP IT – Every doubt stands on the shoulders of faith. We need to be honest about who are what we are trusting when we doubt. Humbly flip your doubt and evaluate the authority behind your belief, and then fuel your faith in God with hope and joy (Habakkuk).



PAUSE IT – Sometimes doubt can be rude and invasive. It insists upon its own timetable and causes "heartburn." Pausing doubt is when we slow our minds down and put doubt in time out. We will revisit some of our questions, but we refuse to be bullied. We look up and live out what we know and trust, that in time we will know more (Psalm 37).



UNLOCK IT – At times we doubt God's saving intentions. Circumstances or fears induce us to question Him. If we base our response on what we are currently feeling or experiencing, we will despair. The key or promise unlocks the door of Doubting Castle. Promise training is vital for us to learn how to trust God's promises when our backs are to the wall (Exodus 14).

Which strategy seems most helpful to you right now? Why?

What is one practical step you intent to take in applying this strategy to your life?

Write out a prayer of faith to God. Feel free to express your doubts, but don't stop there. Move toward His promises in Jesus.

Father . . .