

# EXCERPT FROM “WHY DID YOU DOUBT?”

BITTLE

I think we can all identify with Peter because we have all faced storms in our lives that we were not sure how we were going to face. Sometimes we can see the storm coming, and do our best to prepare for it. Other times, we are blindsided by the storm, and we do our best to ride it out. Whatever the circumstance, storms have come and will come into our lives that will test our faith in ways we cannot expect. When we think we have it all together, we will look around and become afraid. Then all we will have left is to cry out, “Lord, save me.”

But, what is doubt? Doubt is defined as a feeling of uncertainty or lack of conviction. Some synonyms for doubt are: uncertainty, hesitation, suspicion, confusion; indecision, insecurity, uneasiness, apprehension; skepticism, distrust, mistrust, or cynicism. Because we live in a fallen world, we are bombarded by doubt on a daily basis, either by social media, television, news, politics, movies or work. Our faith is questioned in one way or another all around us. But if that wasn't bad enough, sometimes the questions, confusion or uncertainty begins to stir in our minds. That's when we are the most vulnerable, and the enemy is sure to attack.

Thankfully, we are not alone in our struggles. God has given us many examples in His Word of followers who experienced doubt but also experienced the faithfulness of God.. From the Israelites roaming in the wilderness, to Gideon, to Peter, God has proven that, “He will never leave us nor forsake us,” as he once told Joshua in Deuteronomy 31:6. Which leads me to the next question from the King in Matthew 8:26: “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?”

Fear is one of the biggest culprits that stirs up doubt in our minds. Although our hearts love Jesus and believe in Him, our minds begin to question the unseen because of the seen. Let's read Matthew 8:23-26.

Here the disciples, walked and talked with Jesus. They knew Him personally. They had witnessed His miracles, but in the midst of a great storm, all they could see was death.

They were afraid for their lives, because the storm was very real to them. Ironically, when Jesus awoke and calmed the storm, they still were uncertain about who Jesus was. Seeing Jesus's miracles wasn't enough to make them have faith in Jesus, but seeing the storm was enough to cause them to fear and doubt.

Likewise, when we are in the midst of our storms, we become afraid and panic. We do anything and everything within our own strength to calm the storm, but it is not enough. Most of time, we forget that we have a Heavenly Father who has the ability to calm the storm if we would only call on Him. We rely on our perceived worldly wisdom and personal strength first instead of Christ first. Although the disciples were afraid, they knew to go to Christ. I just wonder how long it took them before they woke Him up. Were they too busy trying to save the ship by relying on their skills as fishermen? Did they rely on their physical strength to try to row the boat to shore? Or were they too worried about disturbing Jesus that they wouldn't wake Him up until they had exhausted every other measure to save themselves? My hope is that they woke him as soon as they realized the great danger they were in, and I hope that we cry out to Him as soon as we realize the great danger we are in.









