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YouTube Prayer Link

### Doubt and confidence

Faith is an important part of human existence, and for Christians, the center of faith is God. However, Christians are not always full of conviction, and sometimes they can have questions and doubts about God. This internal and external antagonistic emotion forms a complex and profound experience of faith.

First, let's explore Christian faith. For most Christians, faith is an important support in their lives and a source of strength for them to find in difficult times. They believe in God's existence and in God's love and grace, and this belief makes them feel guided and blessed. Faith also motivates them to do good deeds, help others, and stay resilient in difficult times. Faith brings hope and shapes their values and way of life.

However, even the most devout Christians can have doubts about God at certain moments. This doubt can be a reflection on the problem of suffering and evil, or it can be a question of God's existence and His plan. This skepticism is not necessarily a negative thing, but a process of exploring and deepening faith. By questioning, Christians can understand God's mysteries more deeply and find answers to these questions or at least deeper comfort.

The relationship between Christian doubts about God and faith also reflects the growth of faith. When a Christian experiences doubts and difficulties, their faith can become stronger as they deepen their knowledge of God through these challenges. The growth of this faith may take time, but it usually makes a person more resilient and mature.

Christian faith and doubt about God is a dynamic process that alternates between people's lives. Such contradictions and challenges are normal and contribute to the deepening and growth of faith. Whether at the peak or the trough of faith, God is always there, waiting for people to respond to His love and guidance. The journey of faith is fraught with complexity, but it is also a rich and meaningful experience that helps Christians better understand themselves and their relationships, and their connection to God.

In times of extreme suffering, Christians may also be more inclined to doubt and confuse. Faced with great hardship, pain, and injustice in life, they may ask many questions, including:

This is a common problem, especially in the face of personal tragedy or global disaster. Christians may doubt God's goodness and His concern for the world.

When they pray for help, shelter, or recovery, but don't see obvious answers, believers may feel disappointed and suspicious.

Question God's plan and wisdom. In difficult times, people may question whether God's plan really includes their well-being.

The rationality of faith. Some Christians may begin to question the legitimacy of the entire belief system, including the existence of God, in the midst of suffering.

These doubts are very normal reactions in times of suffering, and even some biblical figures have experienced similar emotions. Job, for example, experienced great suffering in the Bible, and in the process he raised many questions questioning God's justice. However, this skepticism can also prompt believers to think deeply and grow spiritually.

In times of suffering, believers can try the following ways to deal with doubt:

Seek spiritual guidance. Talk to pastors, church leaders, or faith teachers and seek their theological and spiritual guidance.

Read the Bible. Look for passages in the Bible related to suffering and doubt and learn how biblical characters deal with similar challenges.

Pray. Continue to have a relationship with God and don't stop praying even if you have doubts. Share your feelings and questions and seek His revelation.

Seek mental health support. In times of extreme distress, it is also reasonable to seek help from a mental health professional who can provide emotional support and psychological counseling.

Above all, doubt does not mean the end of faith, but a part of it. By persistently seeking truth and a relationship with God, believers may find deeper faith and spiritual growth in suffering.

The Bible contains many verses about believers' doubts and faith in God. Here are some verses that touch on this topic:

Psalm 42:11 - "O heart, why are you troubled, why are you troubled in me, and look to God, for I will praise Him." He is the glory on my face, my God, and my hope. "

Psalm 73:26 - "My flesh and my heart are broken, but God is the strength of my heart and my blessing forever." "

Matthew 14:31 - Jesus said to Peter, "Why do you wonder about it, you little believer?"

Mark 9:24 - Immediately the father of the child cried out, "I believe, but my faith is insufficient, ask the Lord to help me unbelieve." "

John 20:27 - Then he said to Thomas, "Come here with your finger and look at my hand! "

Romans 14:1 - Accept those whose faith is weak, but do not judge on matters of controversy.

Hebrews 11:1 - Faith is the truth of what is hoped for, the assurance of what is not seen.

These verses cover the believer's experience between faith and doubt. They encourage believers to seek God even when their faith is weak or doubtful, to hold fast to their faith, and to remember His grace and promises. In the process of faith, doubt is normal, but believers are encouraged not to lose faith in God by doubting, but to strengthen their faith by seeking Him. These verses provide encouragement and guidance to enable believers to deal with challenges in their faith.

We pray together

Dear Heavenly Father, we come to you to pray for Christians who are struggling between doubt and faith in their faith. We know that faith can be tested in the face of life's suffering and doubts, but we believe that you are an all-knowing, all-powerful, loving, and merciful God.

Please comfort those who are confused and doubtful and let them know that you are always with them. Help them find answers and understand the mysteries behind your plans and wisdom. During their journey of faith, give them a firm heart so that their faith will not waver in the face of setbacks.

Strengthen their communities and churches so that they can find supportive and encouraging partners. In sharing and praying with one another, let them find comfort and inspiration to overcome doubts and move towards deeper faith.

Most importantly, fill their hearts with your Holy Spirit and bring them peace and revelation. Let them know that no matter what they're going through, you love them and never leave them.

We thank you for hearing our prayers and trust that you will answer.

Pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

## Numbers chapter 14

Nu. 14:1 That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud.

Nu. 14:2 All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt!

Or in this desert!

Nu. 14:3 Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall

by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?"

Nu. 14:4 And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

Nu. 14:5 Then Moses and Aaron fell face down in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there.

Nu. 14:6 Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes

Nu. 14:7 and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good.

Nu. 14:8 If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us.

Nu. 14:9 Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up.

Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them."

Nu. 14:10 But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Then the glory of the LORD appeared at the Tent of Meeting to all the Israelites.

Nu. 14:11 The LORD said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them?"

Nu. 14:12 I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they."

Nu. 14:13 Moses said to the LORD, "Then the Egyptians will hear about it! By your power you brought these people up from among them.

Nu. 14:14 And they will tell the inhabitants of this land about it. They have already heard that you, O LORD, are with these people and that you, O LORD, have been seen face to face, that your cloud stays over them, and that you go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

Nu. 14:15 If you put these people to death all at one time, the nations who have heard this report about you will say,

Nu. 14:16 ‘The LORD was not able to bring these people into the land he promised them on oath; so he slaughtered them in the desert.’

Nu. 14:17 “Now may the Lord’s strength be displayed, just as you have declared:

Nu. 14:18 ‘The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.’

Nu. 14:19 In accordance with your great love, forgive the sin of these people, just as you have pardoned them from the time they left Egypt until now.”

Nu. 14:20 The LORD replied, “I have forgiven them, as you asked.

Nu. 14:21 Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the LORD fills the whole earth,

Nu. 14:22 not one of the men who saw my glory and the miraculous signs I performed in Egypt and in the desert but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times —

Nu. 14:23 not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their forefathers. No-one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.

Nu. 14:24 But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.

Nu. 14:25 Since the Amalekites and Canaanites are living in the valleys, turn back tomorrow and set out towards the desert along the route to the Red Sea.” [Hebrew Yam Suph; that is, Sea of Reeds]

Nu. 14:26 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron:

Nu. 14:27 “How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites.

Nu. 14:28 So tell them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the LORD, I will do to you the very things I heard you say:

Nu. 14:29 In this desert your bodies will fall — every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me.

Nu. 14:30 Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.

Nu. 14:31 As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected.

Nu. 14:32 But you — your bodies will fall in this desert.

Nu. 14:33 Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness, until the last of your bodies lies in the desert.

Nu. 14:34 For forty years — one year for each of the forty days you explored the land — you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have me against you.’

Nu. 14:35 I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will surely do these things

to this whole wicked community, which has banded together against me. They will meet their end in this desert; here they will die.”

Nu. 14:36 So the men Moses had sent to explore the land, who returned and made the whole community grumble against him by spreading a bad report about it —

Nu. 14:37 these men responsible for spreading the bad report about the land were struck down and died of a plague before the LORD.

Nu. 14:38 Of the men who went to explore the land, only Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh survived.

Nu. 14:39 When Moses reported this to all the Israelites, they mourned bitterly.

Nu. 14:40 Early the next morning they went up towards the high hill country. “We have sinned,” they said. “We will go up to the place the LORD promised.”

Nu. 14:41 But Moses said, “Why are you disobeying the LORD’s command? This will not succeed!

Nu. 14:42 Do not go up, because the LORD is not with you. You will be defeated by your enemies,

Nu. 14:43 for the Amalekites and Canaanites will face you there. Because you have turned away from the LORD, he will not be with you and you will fall by the sword.”

Nu. 14:44 Nevertheless, in their presumption they went up towards the high hill country, though neither Moses nor the ark of the LORD’s covenant moved from the camp.

Nu. 14:45 Then the Amalekites and Canaanites who lived in that hill country came down and attacked them and beat them down

all the way to Hormah

Chapter 14 of the Book of Numbers in the Christian Bible continues the story of the Israelites' lack of faith and disobedience. The chapter begins with the people weeping and complaining against Moses and Aaron, expressing a desire to have died in Egypt rather than face the challenges of conquering the land of Canaan. Caleb and Joshua again attempt to reassure the people and encourage them to have faith in God's promise, but the people respond by threatening to stone them. God becomes angry with the Israelites and threatens to destroy them, but Moses intercedes for the people, pleading with God to spare them for the sake of His own reputation. God ultimately relents and forgives the people, but declares that none of the current generation will be allowed to enter the Promised Land. Instead, they will wander in the wilderness for forty years, until all of the adults have died, and their children will inherit the land. The chapter ends with the Israelites repenting of their disobedience, but being unable to enter the land of Canaan as punishment for their lack of faith.

Here are some of the key verses from chapter 14 of the Book of Numbers in the Christian Bible:

- "That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud." - Numbers 14:1
- "The Lord replied, 'I have forgiven them, as you asked. Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times— not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors.'" - Numbers 14:20-23
- "But in this wilderness your bodies will fall—every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me." - Numbers 14:29
- "The Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and you will fall by the sword. Because you have turned away from the Lord, he will not be with you and you will fall by the sword." - Numbers 14:43-44
- "The next morning they went up toward the highest point in the hill country, saying, 'Now we are ready to go up to the land the Lord promised. Surely we have sinned!'" - Numbers 14:40

Chapter 14 continues the story of the Israelites' rebellion against God and their refusal to enter the Promised Land. God punishes them by decreeing that they will wander in the wilderness for forty years, until the entire generation of those who doubted Him has died. Only Caleb and Joshua are spared, and God promises that their descendants will inherit the land. In the aftermath of this rebellion, the Israelites mourn and regret their disobedience, but it is too late to undo the consequences of their actions.