



# soulmind

Connecting you with God's heart

## Got Doubt?

James 1:2-5

Welcome to **Soulmind**.

Does having a strong faith mean you don't ever have doubts and uncertainties about God, or get angry at Him and question what He is doing, or not doing?

I don't think there's anyone who hasn't been confused or disappointed by God's action or maybe lack of action at some time. But where do you go with all of your unresolved emotions and unanswered questions?



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Be sure to check out the **SOUL PRACTICE** suggestion for this week (*see below*).

## Topic Overview

I'm thinking about the story in Exodus of how the Israelites were miserably enslaved under Pharaoh. Just imagine when they heard the great news that God was going to rescue them. Most likely they would have expected that God's promise meant that deliverance would come quickly and easily. They probably would have celebrated, "Yay! We're gonna pack up and walk outta here! God is so good!" But things went badly right away, and that was just the beginning.

The people blamed Moses for setting Pharaoh against them and making things worse. Moses then blamed God for this bad turn of events: "What's up? Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, things have gotten much worse, and You have not rescued Your people at all!" Oh, and he complained again about his poor speaking skills. Just couldn't let that one go. I just love Moses' honest give-and-take relationship with God.

Honestly, I don't think there's anyone who hasn't been confused or disappointed by God's action or inaction. Sometimes we think that if we struggle with uncertainty and doubt, or question God's actions, we don't have enough faith. Like, it's not okay to yell at God, right? Better keep your mouth shut. But, watching Moses' relationship with God unfold we get a great picture of authentic Biblical faith. This is faith that trusts in God's character in the face of uncertainty and

hope that comes from knowing who God is and trusting His heart—hope in the middle of pain. This kind of faith doesn't suppress doubts and emotional outbursts at God, isn't passive aggressive, or pretend to have all the right answers.

I'm quite sure Moses didn't anticipate the long, painful, drawn-out ordeal that followed. He lost his temper occasionally, and argued with God multiple times. But he never lost sight of whom he trusted – the I AM, Lord God Almighty. Moses hung in there with God, mistakes and all – and God hung in there with him, eventually doing what He had promised. Moses even made the list of those commended for their faith in Hebrews 11:27. "It was by faith that Moses left the land of Egypt, not fearing the king's anger. He kept right on going because he kept his eyes on the One who is invisible."

What happens to your faith and trust in God when life gets sticky and the easy answers don't fit? Is He still faithful and good when He doesn't seem to be rescuing you from pain and suffering?

## Daily Scriptures

### MONDAY

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#### Hebrews 11:1 (MSG)

The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see.

### TUESDAY

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#### James 1:2-5 (NLT)

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

### WEDNESDAY

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#### James 1:5-8

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure

### THURSDAY

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#### Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)

'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' declares the LORD. 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.'

### FRIDAY

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#### Lamentations 3:19-24 (TEV)

The thought of my pain, my homelessness, is bitter poison. I think of it constantly, and my spirit is depressed. Yet hope returns when I remember this one thing: The Lord's unfailing love and mercy still continue, fresh as the morning, as sure as the sunrise. The Lord is all I have, and so in him I put my hope.

that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

## Doing Your Part

### SOUL PRACTICE

#### Get Real

What has happened or is currently going on where you feel like God hasn't showed up for you? Write down your questions and doubts in a letter to God. Don't pretty it up; be honest and say it all to Him. Be real; He can handle it.

Then, ask Him for wisdom and insight into what is going on, and to help you endure this trial and grow your trust muscles.

### Wise Words

*"Faith is not about striving for certainty.  
It's about striving to remain faithful  
in the midst of uncertainty."*

~ Greg Boyd, **Benefit of the Doubt**

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