

Is Doubt a Gift from God?

1 Corinthians 1:18-25: Luke 7:1-10, 18-23, 36-50

Think of a time when you doubted some information or someone. Reflect about your logic as you lived in that experience. What did you do and think and feel as you began to doubt?

What are your thoughts and questions about the Bernie Madoff and Harry Markopolos story? This story triggers questions like, why were so many people fooled? Especially over so many years? Why was Markopolos ignored, despite sharing evidence? Why didn't the authorities do a better job?

Please read Malcolm Gladwell's book, "Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know About the People We Don't Know," as well as the article, by Larry Getlen, "This man has a BS detector so good it almost drove him nuts." Both explain the "**default to trust**," theory that comes from psychologist Tim Levine.

What do you think that "on average, judges correctly identify liar's 54 % of the time - just slightly better than chance. This is true no matter who is judging. Students, FBI agents, Lawyers, & CIA officers, are terrible. Those who beat the odds, are rare."

Were we really created by God to trust?

What do you think of the quotes quoted, from the Quora web site about **the importance and benefits of doubt**?

Doubt is defined as uncertainty of mind & lack of conviction.

The **most common objects of doubt** in the Bible are:

Christ's messiahship (Luke 7:19-23),
miracles (Matthew 12:24-30),
Jesus' resurrection (John 20:24-29),
and Jesus' return (2 Peter 3:4).

You could add to this list.

Causes or sources of doubt from the Bible are:

First, **Satan** tries to get us to doubt. Genesis 3:4-6.

Second, **Unbelief** in an action of God's. Luke 1:18-20

Third, **Worldly wisdom against belief in the cross** and the resurrection. I Corinthians 1:18-31

Fourth, **Spiritual instability** - James 1:6-8.

Have you ever had doubts about your faith, Biblical ideas, key elements of the Christianity, and unfairness in life?

What are some stories in the Bible that revolve around doubt?

Why did a Roman centurion and a "sinful woman," have less doubt than John the Baptist, who baptized Jesus? Luke 7.

How does doubt and hope and faith interrelate?

In Isaiah 55:8-9, God says to us, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways are not your ways. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so my ways are beyond your ways, and my thoughts are beyond your thoughts."

I Corinthians 13:12, "For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."

Thoughts about St. Augustine's line – "If you understand it, it is not God?" He was talking about faith and trust and theology.

Thoughts from Loretta Reynolds & Sue Monk Kidd comments?

Proverbs 3:5. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8-BT6y_wYg

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What are your thoughts about the Leonard Cohen song, Anthem and the line, “**There is a crack, a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in**”?

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