

Satan's Temptations

The lust to doubt

- I.** Doubt is the inability to make decisions regarding spiritual matters due to the incapacity to make distinctions between what is fitting with Christian character and what is lacking in Christian character (Heb. 5:14).
 1. “Discernment” and “doubt” in the original language are same word in a different voice: active and passive.
 2. Job’s progression: disappointment, discouragement, bitterness, and then doubt (Job 10:1-3). This implies that Satan is the source.
- II.** Doubt is the opposite of faith.
 1. Faith is believing in a promise from God; this belief makes the content of the promise real—hope Heb. 11:1).
 2. Abraham had faith, not doubt, that Sarah would bear him a son (Rom. 4:19-20).
 3. When we ask the Father for wisdom by faith, He will give it, as opposed to asking without faith, which is doubt (Jam. 1:6).
- III.** Doubt in action is a sin; it is not out of faith (Rom. 14:23).
 1. Legalist attempt to establish their own righteousness before God (Rom. 10:3).
 2. The one weak in The Faith, a legalist, adds his own rules to the Law (Rom. 14:1-6 cf. 1 Tim. 4:3-4).
 3. In activity, here eating, motive is important to God (Rom. 14:13-14).
 4. The maturing Christian has to consider other Christians in his lifestyle (Rom. 14:7, 15, 19-20).
 5. Acting by doubt is a sin because it is not out of faith.
- IV.** The Holy Spirit leads in areas not covered by Scripture (Gal. 5:18).
 1. The Holy Spirit never leads contrary to Scripture.
 2. The Holy Spirit never leads one to stumble other Christians.
 3. The Holy Spirit never leads a Christian to tarnish their testimony.
 4. “All things are lawful” but not all meet the test when measured by Scripture (1 Cor. 6:12; 10:23-24 cf. Gal. 5:23).