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Seeds of Doubt

A South Pacific Christian Ministries Bible Study

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Instructions

This study is designed to use questions and scriptures to enable believers to gain understanding. While it may be used for individual study, it is designed for a group setting. The Leader's Guide provides a group leader with additional information, scripture passages, and directional comments. Providing scriptures and some background helps to spur direct the discussion. Depending on the response of those participating in the study, additional questions may be required to direct them to the necessary understanding. If you are going to lead a group discussion, then we suggest that you read the summary first, and then review the discussion, including the discussion points and answers. If you are using this study for your personal study time, then read the summary and then answer the questions on the Study Section. Make sure that you read and study the scriptures used in the Study. After you have completed the Study Section, then compare your answers to those that you will find in the Leader's Guide.

It should be noted that this and our other studies often reference scriptural symbolism. As with the parables that Jesus told, a scriptural symbolism represents a deeper truth found within a passage. In order for scriptural symbolism to be valid it must line up with scripture and be supported by scripture and conform to the character of God.

All scripture references found in this study are the King James version, unless otherwise noted. Do not use or allow the use of none scripture references. In particular, books that are not part of the Bible. If a scripture seems questionable, compare it to the King James and Amplified versions. Also, in a group setting, do not allow anyone to dominate the discussion that will hinder others. Don't allow group members to challenge directly the answers of other group members. The answers presented herein, are not the final answers. These answers serve as a guide.

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About Us

South Pacific Christian Ministries is a Non-Denomination Missions Oriented Ministry that sprang out of a small tourist focused church in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. After 16 years serving as the Senior Pastor the LORD redirected our steps from the little chapel by the sea to the small island communities of the South Pacific.

Our Vision is to bring the living water to the small islands of the South Pacific; a vision summed up in the Hawaiian phrase Ke Ola Wai, which means the living water. Ke Ola Wai encompassing our greatest spiritual and physical need, pure spiritual and physical water.

Our Mission is to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the people who live on the small islands of the South Pacific that can only be reached by boat. To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their shores, assisting local Pastors, providing Bible Training for believers and conducting outreaches to draw in non-believers. To provide gravity fed, family sized, reverse osmosis water filters; emergency medical supplies; medical services; and disaster response training.



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Summary

In Seeds of Doubt we explore that nature of God's Word, the devil's tactics and how our view of God's Word impacts our walk with God. Our view of God's Word is critical to our relationship with God and our ability to believe in His promises. From the beginning the enemy has sought to plant seeds of doubt into the heart of man in an effort to change our view of God's Word. Once doubt has been planted it quickly sprouts into a twisted vine that chokes the life out of our souls, leaving us with nothing to stand upon and with a weapon to use against the forces of darkness.



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Leaders Guide

The tactics of our enemy, satan and the other angels who rebelled against God, have not changed since Adam and Eve. Knowing their tactics enables us to avoid their traps. Understanding what faith is an important step in walking in the fullness of what God has for us.

Hebrews 11:1

- 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Question

- 1) What does Hebrews 11:1 mean by "Faith is the substance..."?
 - Faith is the stone and mortar that builds that which we hope for
- 2) Can you have faith without hope?
 - Faith requires hope.
 - You can not have faith without hope.

Considering that faith is the substance of things hoped for, we must properly define hope. Without hope faith does not exist. The modern English language uses wish and hope interchangeably. More often than not, when the word hope is used, the word that best describes what is being expressed is wish.

The definition of "hope"

A desire of some good, accompanied with at least a slight expectation of obtaining it, or a belief that it is obtainable.

Confidence in a future event; the highest degree of well founded expectation of good.

The definition of "wish"

A desire for something without expectation of obtaining it.

In order for you to have hope, you must have an expectation of receiving what you are hoping for. Otherwise, you just have a wish; a desire to have something. Expectation requires a knowledge that you something will occur.

The word hope in Hebrews 11:1 is the Greek word, *elpizo*; which means to expect or confide, to have hope, to trust.

In order to have faith we must expect that which we desire to receive. In order to receive a promise, we must have an expectation based on the integrity and ability of the one who made the promise.

Romans 4:1-5

- 1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?
- 2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.
- 3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.
- 4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.
- 5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.



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James 2:23

- 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

Question

- 3) In Romans 4:3 and James 2:23, what is meant by Abraham believed God?
- Abraham accepted what God said as fact, a solid truth. Because he believed God, then God conferred upon him righteousness.

Abraham trusted God. He had a firm and unshakable belief in the reliability and truth of what God said. He also had a firm and unshakable trust in God's ability and authority to do anything that God said He would do.

Question

- 4) Some people have said that the story of Jonah is simply a symbolic story foretelling of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and not a story reflecting actual events. Is there any problem with that view point?
- You can not isolate from God's Word those things that you want to accept as fact and reject others.
- 5) What, if any, is the effect of labeling an event described in the Bible as not factual?
- The Bible is a tapestry woven by a single thread. If one part is not factual then everything in the Bible is subject to question.
 - We must accept it as a whole without doubt, otherwise everything that we believe is in question.
 - It limits your ability to have faith in what God says as truth.
 - Allows people to pick and choose what is valid based on current social accepted values or current religious beliefs.

How we view God's Word dictates our trust and faith in Him. If His Word is just the writing of men over hundreds of years that speak of historical events and representative or symbolic stories that speak of God's ways and truths, then everything is subject to question. If you accept His Word as absolute truth then you can have faith for any promise of God. Your lack of knowledge of history will not cause you to question a passage. Just as, your lack of understanding how something can be done will also cause you to question a passage.

Question

- 6) How do we know that the Bible is true?
- We accept it as truth by faith

While the Bible is the most studied book in all of history and there are volumes of books that explain how the Bible has been validated, it still must be accepted by faith. Even given all the evidence that is available that support the validity and truthfulness of the Bible, we must still accept every passage by faith. Even though every book, every passage, every verse was written under the direct guidance of the Holy Spirit, we must still accept every passage by faith.

{ Side Note: This is not an apologetic study on the Bible. A great group course on the validity of the Bible may be found at the Evangelical Training Association, a non-denominational Christian education group, called Beyond Reasonable Doubt!. www.ETAworld.org }



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Question

- 7) How do we know when something someone says about the Word is accurate?
- It lines up with the Word and the character of God
 - That which is applied to today must be view from the work of the Cross

Unfortunately, men are fallibly and some are deceptive. Just because a well known personality in the Church says something does not mean it is true. We must always take what we hear to God's Word. If it is of God, then it will line up with His Word, in particular, in view of the cross.

2 Timothy 2:15

- 15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

If you don't know the truth you can not recognize a lie. If it vital to study God's Word so that you can identify when something does not line up.

Genesis 1:26-28

- 26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
- 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
- 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

God created man in His image, His likeness. Adam was like God. While he was not as powerful or as wise, he had the potential to be like God. Not that man will ever fully reach the same level of God in wisdom, power, authority, knowledge and love. None the less, Adam was created in God's image. He was like God. God gave Adam dominion over the earth and everything that was therein.

Genesis 2:15-17

- 15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.
- 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:
- 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

God put the fruit of one tree off limits. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The penalty for eating that fruit was death.

Genesis 3:1

- 1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Question

- 8) Why did the snake, satan, ask Eve if God had said that they can not eat of every tree in the garden?
- The question was to show what Eve knew and her faith and understanding of God's Word.



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The question asked was extreme. The serpent knew exactly God said. But unlike God, he did not know what Eve believed or knew. Her answer exposed her knowledge, her faith and Adam's failure to teach her who and what God was. Had Adam done his job, the snake would have never asked the question. Had Adam been doing his job then he would have seen the snake and dealt with it.

Genesis 3:2 - 3

- 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:
- 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

Question

- 9) Was Eve's response to the serpent accurate?
 - No, God only said do not eat of it. He did not say do not touch it.

The fact that Eve felt a need to add to God's command showed that she did not believe that God's Word as enough. It should a lack of understanding of God and the truthfulness of His Word. She did not fully understand the command. When you add to a statement or a command you indicate that you do not believe that it is complete or strong enough.

Genesis 3:4-5

- 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:
- 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Having heard Eve's response the serpent lies to Eve, challenging God's Word; challenging God's integrity and authority. The serpent equate God to be equal to himself, a liar, with hidden motivations.

Question

- 10) Why did Eve not challenge the serpents lie in Genesis 3:4?
 - She did not really understand God's character nor His lover for her.

The only effective way to counter a lie is with the truth. The only way you can use the truth to challenge a lie is to know and believe the truth.

Question

- 11) What led Eve to eat of the fruit?
 - She believed the lie that God had not provided enough for them and that God's Word was not true.
- A) What is the key reasons that she took of the fruit?
 - It would make her like God.

Genesis 3:6-7

- 6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.
- 7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

After eating the fruit herself, Eve gave Adam the fruit as well. They both went against what God had said.



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Question

12) What the lie did Adam and Eve accepted as truth?

- They accepted a lie about who they were and therefor took on the lesser image.
- They accepted the lie that they were not who and what God said they were.

Adam sees Eve with the fruit, having done that which God said not to do. His eyes tell him that Eve did not die, so what God said must not be true. He accepted the appearance of the situation over God's Word. His rejection of God's Word, caused him to eat the fruit.

Question

13) What was Adam and Eve's sin?

- Doubting God's Word and rebellion against His command

2 Peter 3:8

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Adam and Eve both began to age from that moment forth. They both died before they turned a thousand years old. They would have lived forever, but their sin cost them their lives, just as God had said.

In Matthew 3, Mark 1, Luke 3 and John 1, you find the description of the baptisms of Jesus by John the Baptist. This event marks the beginning of His ministry, after a time in the wilderness where He was tempted by the devil.

Matthew 3:13-17

- 13) Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.
- 14) But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?
- 15) And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.
- 16) And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:
- 17) And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

When Jesus rose up out of the water as He was baptized by John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus. For John the Baptist, this was the sign God had told him would confirm to him who was the Son of God. Immediately after Jesus was baptized, God declared from Heaven, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased".

Matthew 4:1-6

- 1) Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.
- 2) And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered.
- 3) And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.
- 4) But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.
- 5) Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,
- 6) And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.



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Matthew 4:7-11

- 7) Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.
- 8) Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;
- 9) And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.
- 10) Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.
- 11) Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

After Jesus is baptized the Holy Spirit directs Him to go into the wilderness alone. He is there to fast and to be tempted by the devil. He is there for a distinct purpose.

Question

- 14) In Matthew 3:17, what did God say about Jesus?
 - "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

When God spoke after Jesus was baptized, He declared openly and to Jesus who Jesus was. He also declared that He was very pleased with His son. God's declaration defined who Jesus was and what His standing was with God. A son, in whom He was well pleased.

After having fasted for forty days and nights, Jesus was hungry. He is the Son of God, but His body is that of a man. He got thirsty and hungry just like anyone else. It is only after He is hungry and likely physically weak, that the devil comes to tempt Jesus.

The devil tries three times. There is a purpose for the questions. Each question the same base purpose.

Question

- 15) Why did the devil say to Jesus, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread."?
 - The devil wanted Jesus to prove who He was by turning bread into stones.
- 16) How did Jesus respond?
 - "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

By responding to the devil using God's Word, Jesus declares the truth without responding to the challenge. The way He responded is vitally important, in particular, why He did not try to prove that He was the Son of God.

Question

- 17) Why did the devil say to Jesus, "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone."?
 - He wanted Jesus to prove who He was based on something God had said.

In the second temptation, there was a two sided challenge. If you are the Son of God, then show that God will keep you safe by jumping off the top of the temple.

Matthew 3:7

- 7) Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.



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Again, Jesus responded by quoting God's Word. You do not tempt the LORD thy God. For Jesus to jump from the top of the temple would have placed Himself in a position to challenge God's Word. His response correctly applied God's Word to the situation.

Matthew 3:8-10

- 8) Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;
- 9) And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.
- 10) Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

In his last attempt, offers everything in the world in exchange for worshipping him. By offering Jesus what he currently had authority over because of Adam has the same aim as the other two temptations.

Question

- 18) Why did the devil take Jesus to a high mountain and show Him all of the kingdoms of the world and the offer to give him everything if He would only fall down and worship him?
 - The tactic and the purpose behind question is the same as the others.

With Adam and Eve the devil used the same tactic with the same goal in mind. In both attempts, the purpose was get them to accept a lie that God's Word was not true. Adam and Eve were created in God's image and likeness. They could not be more like God. By eating the fruit that God forbade them to eat for the purpose of making themselves like God, denied what God had said they were. They also accepted the lie that they would not die if they ate the fruit contrary to what God said. Not only did they act in disobedience, but they rejected the truth of God's Word and accepted the devil's lie.

With Jesus, God had audibly declared, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased", just before Jesus went into the wilderness. For Jesus to attempt to prove that He was the Son of God would show that God's Word was not enough. In the last temptation, the devil offered all that kingdoms of the world. As the Son of God, all those kingdoms would come under His authority at the appointed time. The devil's ploy again was to get Jesus to believe that God's Word was not true. Words spoken through the prophets long before Jesus was born.

John 3:13-18

- 13) And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.
- 14) And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:
- 15) That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.
- 16) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
- 17) For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.
- 18) He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 6:47

- 47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.



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Matthew 7:21

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

According to God's Word, if we believe on Jesus Christ and do God's will, then we have everlasting life. The doing God's will part stems from believing His Word. If you do not believe His Word and you choose to do that which is rebellion against Him, then you will not be accepted. If, on the other hand, you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died for your sins and rose again, and if, your heart is to do God's will then you have eternal life with Him.

God is not looking for perfection, because He knows that we are not able to walk in perfection. Sooner or later, we stumble and fall. We do something contrary to God's Word. Knowing that we are imperfect, God sent His Son to pay the price we could not pay. It is the work of the cross that enables us to receive His righteousness. If we rebel, then against God, choosing to do what we know is wrong, then we walk out from that covering.

Question

- 19) Is there anything that Jesus accomplished on the cross that does not apply for today?
- No. God's Word does not change. What was true then, it true today.

Your salvation is just one work of the cross. Isaiah 53 and 1 Peter 2:24 are just two passages in His Word that declares the fullness of that work. Our salvation, our healing, our peace, our provision was provided through that work. Your acceptance of the completeness of that work dictates the degree to which you walk in the fullness of what God provided through His Son for you.

The enemies tactics have not change. It is always the same, to get you to accept a seed of doubt regarding God's Word. They know that when you believe His Word, they have no power or authority over you. As long as you do not fully accept God's Word as truth, you are not a threat.



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Study Questions

Answer the following questions, using scripture to support your answers where appropriate. The goal is to gain understanding, not to adhere to short, pat answers. Don't limit yourself to the space on the page between questions. Write your answers on a separate sheet if necessary. Do not include answers based on the books that are not part of the Bible. The opinions of man and blending the works of man, in particular false books, will hinder your walk and understanding.

Read

Hebrews 11:1

Romans 4:1-5

James 2:23

2 Timothy 2:15

Genesis 1:26-28

Genesis 2:15-17

Genesis 3:1-7

2 Peter 3:8

Matthew 3:13-17

Matthew 4:1-11

John 3:13-18

John 6:47

Matthew 7:2

Isaiah 53

1 Peter 2:24

Questions

Hebrews 11:1

1) What does Hebrews 11:1 mean by "Faith is the substance..."?

2) Can you have faith without hope?

Romans 4:1-5, James 2:23

3) In Romans 4:3 and James 2:23, what is meant by Abraham believed God?

4) Some people have said that the story of Jonah is simply a symbolic story foretelling of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and not a story reflecting actual events. Is there any problem with that view point?

5) What, if any, is the effect of labeling an event described in the Bible as not factual?

6) How do we know that the Bible is true?

2 Timothy 2:15

7) How do we know when something someone says about the Word is accurate?

Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 2:15-17, Genesis 3:1-7

8) Why did the snake, satan, ask Eve if God had said that they can not eat of every tree in the garden?

9) Was Eve's response to the serpent accurate?



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10) Why did Eve not challenge the serpents lie in Genesis 3:4?

11) What led Eve to eat of the fruit?

A) What is the key reasons that she took of the fruit?

12) What the lie did Adam and Eve accepted as truth?

13) What was Adam and Eve's sin?

2 Peter 3:8, Matthew 3:13-17, Matthew 4:1-11

14) In Matthew 3:17, what did God say about Jesus?

15) Why did the devil say to Jesus, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread."?

16) How did Jesus respond?

17) Why did the devil say to Jesus after taking Him to the top of the temple, if you're the Son of God cast yourself down. Isn't it written that He keep you from getting hurt (paraphrased)?

18) Why did the devil offer to give Jesus everything if He would only fall down and worship him?

John 3:13-18, John 6:47, Matthew 7:2, Isaiah 53, 1 Peter 2:24

19) Is there anything that Jesus accomplished on the cross that does not apply for today?

20) What are you doing when you do not accept something in God's Word as truth?