

***Question: As an older and hopefully more mature Christian, my faith is stronger; but I continue to have so many questions. Will I ever overcome all doubts and questions?***

I believe it is helpful to make a distinction between faith in our faith and faith in the person of Jesus Christ. As we grow in our faith in Christ, our spiritual security should depend less on our own strength, knowledge, understanding, actions or faith; and we should trust him to handle more of the unknown and difficult things we face in life. Remember that God is infinite and we are finite. Therefore, there will always be some mystery about God that we cannot understand.

By reading the Bible, we learn about the faithfulness of God to his people throughout their history. We can see his steadfast love encompassing all who trust him. We see his grace and mercy extended to us even in our sinfulness and rebellion (Romans 5:8). We come to understand that he has not promised to deliver us *from* all trouble, but he has promised to be *with* us (Hebrews 13:5). He promised to provide strength and to use our trials as a means to purify and shape us for eternal joy (1 Peter 1:7). He always walks with his people through the storms, even “through the valley of the shadow of death” (Psalm 23). As we grow in this trusting faith, we gain confidence, contentment and peace.

However, while faith may increase, it does not mean we will have all questions or doubts removed. We must continue to trust God in things we cannot see, understand or know. Hebrews 11:1 says, “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” (NIV). The more we trust him, the less we should feel the need to know all through personal experience and understanding. In other words, we should be able to tolerate more unanswered questions because we trust God to handle the things we do not know or understand.

Growing faith really is a marvelous thing! It brings blessings and encouragement each step along the way. Our faith may be greater today than yesterday, but it is not what it will be tomorrow. Until Jesus returns to take us home with him, we will always have room for growth. If we thought we had all the questions answered, we might stop growing in our faith in Christ. May we find encouragement in the words of Jesus to his disciples, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

NIV). While the questions may continue, there is a peace that comes with a growing trust in Jesus. God bless you as you continue to grow in your faith in Him.

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