

***Question: Through the past few years, my faith has grown stronger; but I still have so many questions. Will I ever overcome all doubts and questions?***

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. However, if we thought we had all the questions answered, we might stop growing in our faith in Christ. Until Jesus returns to take us home with him, we will always have room for growth.

I believe that it is helpful to make a distinction between faith in our faith and faith in the person of Jesus Christ. As we grow 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. The Bible clearly demonstrates that God has always been faithful to his people. We see his steadfast love encompassing all who trust him (Lamentations 3:21-24). His grace and mercy has been extended to his people even in their sinfulness and rebellion (Ephesians 2:4-5; Hebrews 8:12).

Upon learning of God's faithfulness, we come to understand that he has not promised to deliver us *from* all trouble and doubt; but he has promised always 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 (Hebrews 12:7-13; Romans 5:1-5). 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 in Jesus, we gain confidence, contentment and peace.

However, a growing faith does not mean we will have all questions answered or doubts removed. We must still 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 everything 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 understand.

May we find encouragement in the words of Jesus to his disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I

am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am” (John 14:1-3).

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