



Pastor Mike Chapman

Doubt is not a topic we discuss often in church. Yet, one of the hidden secrets of church is that from time to time we all doubt. It is not a sin to doubt. It does not indicate a lack of faith, but a state of "qualified faith." To doubt is to seek more information and recognize your limited knowledge.

Doubt is the skeleton in the closet of faith, and I know no better way to treat a skeleton than to bring it into the open and expose it for what it is: not something to hide or fear, but a hard structure on which living tissue can grow.

--Phillip Yancey

INTELLECTUAL DOUBT

Intellectual doubt struggles with the **factual basis** of the biblical message.

The most recent challenge to the biblical message has been ***The Lost Tomb of Jesus.***

Reasons to question the theories of ***The Lost Tomb***

1. The **interpretation** of the names of the ossuaries
2. The assumption of the **relationship** of the individuals

3. The facts we know about **family of Jesus**

4. What **scholars** have said

The historicity of the resurrection is validated by...

1. The credibility of the **Gospels**.

2. The **empty tomb** and **appearances** of Jesus.

3. The rapid rise and expansion of **early church**.

4. The **lives** of the earliest witnesses.

EMOTIONAL DOUBT

Emotional doubt can be the result of fear, anguish, disappointment, grief, or guilt. It thrives on **impressions** rather than logic.

The Risen Christ....

...comforted **Mary Magdalene** in her pain and grief.

...walked with **two travelers** helping them with their confusion.

...spoke peace to the **disciples** when they met in fear.

...gave **Thomas** the evidence that answered his doubts.

...recommissioned **Peter** with a miracle and a meal.

A HIGHER LEVEL OF KNOWING

Historical evidence alone will only lead us to the shoreline.

It will not lead us on into the water.

We must have a different kind of knowing.

A knowing of intellect that is joined by **the spirit**.

Matthew 20:28, *Thomas exclaimed, "My Lord and my God!"*

We do not have unqualified *certainty* about anything.

However, it is possible to have *assurance*: a confidence that is so aware and secure that we can entrust and base our actions and our lives upon it without fear.

The third kind of doubt is *volitional doubt*. It is a willful choosing not to believe. It is what the Bible refers to as *unbelief*.