

How do I deal with my doubts?

Slides from John Percival's sermon at the morning service
Sunday 1st December 2024

Part of the **Big Questions** series

The
CHOSEN



1. The nature of doubt

Doubt = “faith in two minds”

Luke 24v38 – *“Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?”*

“Unbelief is the decision to live your life as if there is no God. It is a deliberate decision to reject Jesus Christ. But doubt is something quite different. Doubt arises within the context of faith. It is a wistful longing to be sure of the things we trust.”

Alister McGrath



2. The nature of faith

We can believe confidently even if we are not always 100% sure.

3. The nature of Jesus

Jesus' response to doubt:

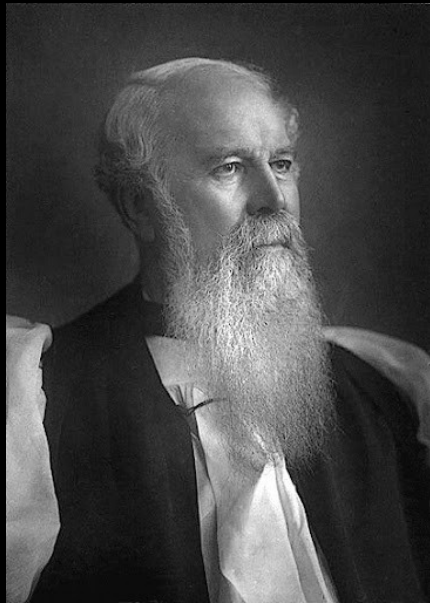
- Empathy

Matthew 11v3

Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?

“Doubting does not prove that a man has no faith, but only that his faith is small. And, even when our faith is small, the Lord is ready to help us.”

JC Ryle



3. The nature of Jesus

Jesus' response to doubt:

- Empathy
- Evidence

Matthew 11v4-5

“Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵
The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have
leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are
raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.”



“By the end of the summer, I found that well: I'm not 99.9 percent persuaded that the resurrection happened, but I know I am definitely above 51 percent. And if I am a consistent pragmatist, who is truly open to new information, and if I'm willing to suspend my disbelief in the supernatural, which, the more I investigated the more I saw that my naturalist worldview was premised on unprovable assumptions... then I really do have to confront the fact that the gap between me and Jesus is smaller than the gap behind me. And so, it's reasonable to jump. I think I found my position as it was untenable. And once you decide you believe that a guy rose from the dead it starts to feel reasonable to say, 'I give my life to him.'”

4. The nature of Christianity

- Community
- Growth
- Hope

1 Corinthians 13v12

For now, we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.