



## LIFE GROUP STUDY NOTES

19 March 2014

**TITLE:** DOUBT, SECOND ENEMY OF FAITH

**TEXT:** Matthew 14:28-33; 21:21

*28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" 31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God"*

*So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and **do not doubt**, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done. **Matthew 21:21***

*24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "**Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.**" **John 20:24-25***

### INTRODUCTION

Skeptics pride themselves in their doubt, distrust and mistrust of truth. Doubters are so used to a state of unbelief that they think it is normal. Brethren, we must beware of the immense danger of skepticism. While there are many things we cannot be certain about, there are things we must definitely know. Priding ourselves in doubt will certainly undermine your faith.

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION & REFLECTION

1. Do you sometimes experience doubt with respect to the things of God? What is the difference between having some thoughts of doubt and being a habitual doubter? What is a skeptic?
2. According to Matthew 14:29, did Peter actually walk on water? What enabled him to walk on water? According to Matthew 14:30, what TWO things led to Peter's sinking?
3. According to Jesus' question to Peter in Matthew 14:31, what caused Peter to sink? Comparing vv30 and 31, can we say that fear and doubt are related?
4. The Lord's question, "*Why did you doubt*", suggests that doubting is NOT a normal and acceptable part of a believer's life. Do you agree? Why or why not?
5. According to Matthew 21:21, what TWO factors will enable any believer to deal with their fig-tree-level problems and their mountain-level problems without fail?
6. What THREE conditions did Thomas say should be met before he could believe (per John 20:25)? As today's believers, are we equally at risk of over-relying on our senses?
7. Jesus said to him, "*Thomas, because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed*" (John 20:29). What do these words of Jesus mean for us today? Does this mean we must be gullible (believing anything)? What is the difference between being a doubter, being gullible and being a true believer? Which are you?