

A Sight Unseen

Part 4

“Doubt: A Parallax of God
Hebrews 10:38
Habakkuk 1-2

If we KNEW what God knows, we would always WANT what God wants!

Real faith manifests itself in our minds, our hearts and our wills.

- **With our Minds we EXAMINE the Evidence.**
- **With our Hearts we EMBRACE the Truth and Believe.**
- **With our Wills we EXERCISE Trust and Obedience.**

Matthew 14:28-31

(28) And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

(29) He said, "**Come.**" So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.

(30) But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me."

(31) Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "**O you of little faith, why did you doubt?**"

- Working definition of Doubt: Doubt results from a parallax view of God.
- The goal of our faith is to get such an accurate view of God that we can clearly see where He is and to strive to continually move closer to Him.
- God is consistent. He doesn't move. His will, His desires, His plans have not changed. But our view of them does change.

James 1:17 NIV

(17) Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

James 1:17 ESV

(17) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

“Change” or “Variation” = Greek 3883 – παραλλαγή parallage□

From a compound of [G3844](#) and [G236](#); *transmutation* (of phase or orbit), that is, (figuratively) *fickleness*: - variableness

Parallax

n: the apparent displacement of an object as seen from two different points that are not on a line with the object.

Habakkuk 1:1-4

(1) The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet received. (2) *How long, O LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save?* (3) *Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict*

abounds. (4) Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.

Habakkuk 1:5-6

(5) "Look at the nations and watch— and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told. (6) I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwelling places not their own.

Habakkuk 1:12-13

(12) O LORD, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, we will not die. O LORD, you have appointed them to execute judgment; O Rock, you have ordained them to punish. (13) Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?

3 Facets of Doubt

- **Is God REAL?**
- **Is God in CONTROL?**
- **Does God CARE?**

Habakkuk 1:5-6

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I. The DIAGNOSTIC Of Doubt.

1 Corinthians 13:12-13

(12) Now we see but a poor 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. (13) And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

These three gifts are eternal and they available to us now and they help us answer our doubts.

- **Is God Real? – FAITH is the answer.**
- **Is God in Control? – HOPE is the answer.**
- **Does God Care? – LOVE is the answer.**

The greatest example of Faith – God is real, Hope – God is in control, and Love – God does care for us is Jesus Christ. Jesus is the personification of God three great gifts.

The prayers of a doubter:

- *“Lord, I have doubts I am wrestling with whether or not You are real, would you give me a more accurate view of Your character and nature, grant me the faith to trust You.”*
- *“Lord, I have doubts. I am wrestling with whether or not You are really in control. I don’t understand the circumstances around me, would you give me a more accurate view of Your power; grant me the hope to trust You.”*

The prayers of a doubter – continued:

- *“Lord, I have doubts. I am wrestling with whether or not you really care for me. What I see with my eyes is in conflict with what I believe in my heart. Grant me a deeper understanding of Your love so I can trust You even when I don’t understand Your ways.”*

Habakkuk 2:1-4

(1) I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.
(2) Then the LORD replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. (3) For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay. (4) "See, he is puffed up; his desires are not upright— but the righteous will live by his faith—

There are 2 paths that each of us can take.

- **The Path of the PROUD.**
- **The Path of the RIGHTEOUS.**

III. The Danger of Drawing Back.

Hebrews 10:38-39

(38) But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him." (39) But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

Doubt can cause us to draw back from God and that is a dangerous thing. Earlier we read that without faith it is impossible to please God. Here we read that God has no pleasure in those who draw back. Furthermore doubt can diagnose that we do not have a genuine faith in Jesus Christ. We may believe that God is real. We may intellectually affirm Christ's life, death and resurrection and still not have a genuine faith.

- **Is your faith weak – Pray for God's grace and strength.**
- **Is your faith real? – If not surrender your life to Christ.**