

*Living Waters Chapel*  
1900 Jay St., Lebanon, PA 17046

~ *SERMON NOTES* ~

Pastor D. Dean Cover  
March 30, 2008

**SERMON SERIES:** *“Lord, Whatever It Takes, Change My Attitude Before It’s Too Late!”*

**SERMON TITLE:** *“Welcome to Doubters Anonymous, but I Doubt You’ll Like It”*

**SCRIPTURE:** Numbers 13:1-14:12

**THEME:** Those who choose doubting as their lifestyle will spend their life in a spiritual wilderness.

**INTRODUCTION:** Sometimes our circumstances will cause us to question God’s presence in our lives. Sometimes it’s our past pain that keeps us from believing what God promises us today. And what do we do about doubt when it occurs?

1. Doubt is *the lack of faith and confidence that God will keep His promises.*
  2. The attitude of doubt is a mindset; it’s a way of thinking. This kind of doubt is dangerous and destructive.
- I. **UNDERSTANDING WHY GOD ALLOWS REGULAR TIMES OF TESTING IN OUR LIVES (13:1-3)**
- A. Tests are not designed for our failure but for our success (Deuteronomy 1:21-26).
  - B. *“Faith is not a part of your Christian life it IS your life.”*
  - C. *“It is impossible to please God without faith”* (Hebrews 11:6)

- II. **WHAT HAPPENS TO US IN LIFE WILL EITHER CAUSE DISCOURAGEMENT AND DOUBT OR STRETCH AND STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH (13:4-32)**
  - A. It’s not **WHAT** we see but **HOW** we see that matters.
  - B. In those critical times in life, you make a crucial choice. You will either get better or bitter.
- III. **DOUBTS WILL ALWAYS SEE THE OBSTACLES BUT FAITH WILL SEE THE OPPORTUNITIES (13:25-29)**
  - A. Caleb becomes our example to follow. (Joshua 14:6-9)
  - B. Doubt has many disguises:
    1. Fear
    2. Anxiety
    3. Anger
    4. Withdrawal
    5. Bitterness
- IV. **IF YOU HANG AROUND WITH DOUBTERS YOU WILL EVIDENTLY BECOME A DOUBTER (13:31 - 14:1-4)**
  - A. We spend more time talking about what God **HASN’T** done than what God **HAS** done.
- V. **IT’S A SHORT JOURNEY FROM DOUBT TO DEFEAT AND DESPAIR (vv. 3-4)**
  - A. We experience some difficulty and some hardship and how easy it is for us to forget God’s blessings and provisions.
  - B. What we need today is to reclaim the greatness of God and in doing so reclaim our confidence in God and His promises.

**CONCLUSION:** We need to learn to live with the insecurities and the ambiguities of life. But know this, God is secure. God is certain. God is not ambiguous. In the storms of life God is your Rock that cannot be moved. He is God. The way we overcome our doubts is to lay our whys before God’s throne in worship.