

# Message

## WRESTLING WITH DOUBT

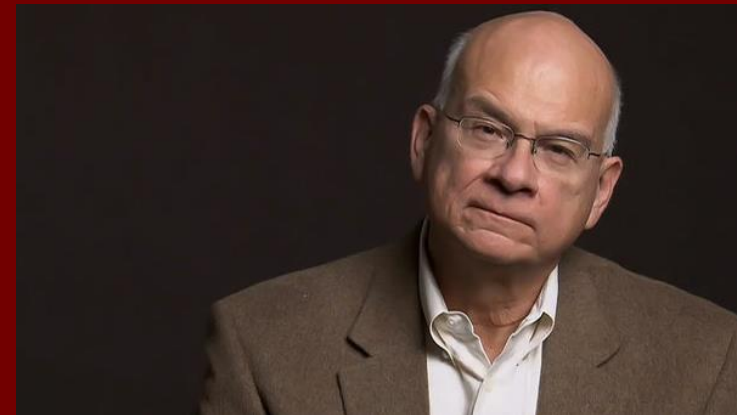


*Neal Parker*

# Wrestling with Doubt

**“A faith without some doubts is like a human body without any antibodies in it. People who blithely go through life too busy or indifferent to ask hard questions about why they believe as they do will find themselves defenseless against either the experience of tragedy or the probing questions of a smart skeptic.”**

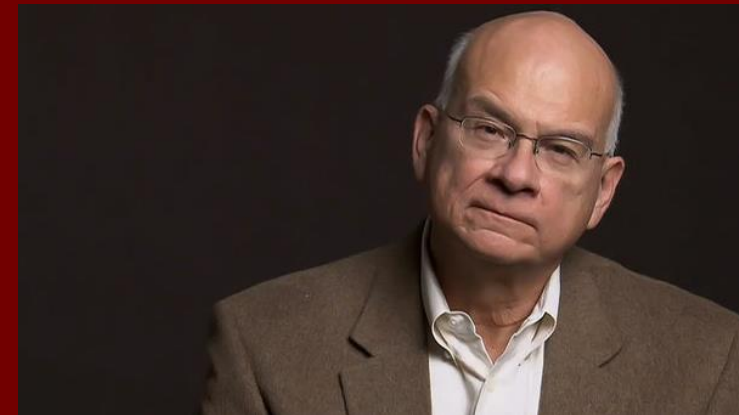
**- Timothy J. Keller**



# Wrestling with Doubt

**“A person's faith can collapse almost overnight if he or she has failed over the years to listen patiently to his or her own doubts, which should only be discarded after long reflection. Believers should acknowledge and wrestle with doubts — not only their own but their friends' and neighbors'. It is no longer sufficient to hold beliefs just because you inherited them.”**

**- Timothy J. Keller**



# Wrestling with Doubt

- **Doubt** – Someone has an intellectual, emotional or psychological barrier to a more secure confidence in a biblical teaching or in God, Himself.
- **Lack of Belief** – Someone doesn't believe a biblical teaching or idea, but wants to believe
- **Unbelief** – Someone willfully set themselves against a biblical teaching

# Wrestling with Doubt

## ■ Matthew 14:22-33

- Doubt can cause fear
- Combat fear / get it under control
- No longer able to do the impossible

## ■ Matthew 6:30-34

- Reliance upon God
- Seek truths of God – Kingdom & Righteousness

# Wrestling with Doubt

## ■ Genesis 4:1-10

- Do we control our emotions?
- Do our emotions control us?



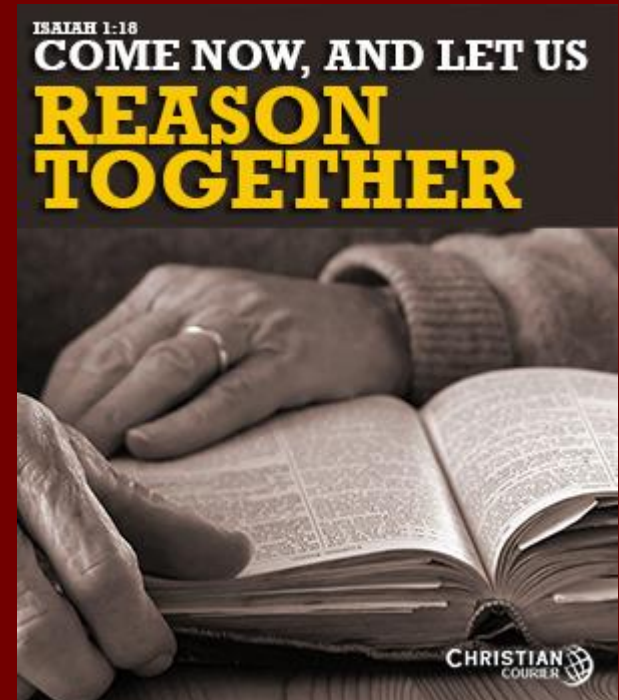
# Wrestling with Doubt

## ■ Mark 9:14-24

- Our faith is often not perfect
- Our belief is often mixed with lack of belief

## ■ Isaiah 1:18-20

- God desires that we reason with Him
- Reasoning with God combats our lack of belief



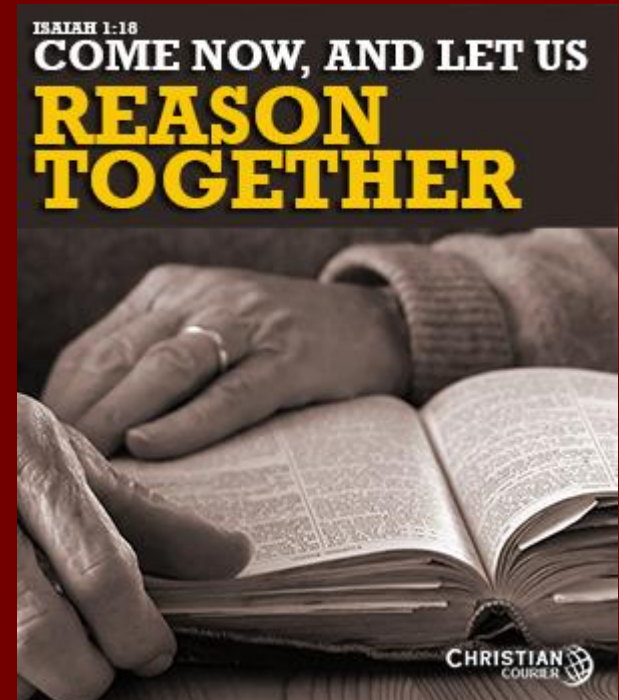
# Wrestling with Doubt

- **John 11:8,16**

- “Let us go that we may die with Him.”

- **John 20:19-29**

- “Blessed are they who did not see and yet believed.”





# Wrestling with Doubt

## ■ Hebrews 3:12-19

- “...unbelieving heart that falls away...”
  - Literally: “to become apostate” / willing sinful
- “Today, if you would hear His voice..”
  - Psalm 95:7-11
  - Unbelief = no entering God’s Rest / God’s Promised Land / God’s Kingdom

# Wrestling with Doubt

## ■ Unbelief

- Breaks the trust that is the basis of our relationship with God.
- Unbelief = Rebellion and Departure from God

## ■ Jeremiah 29:11

- God is planning for us
- Plans for welfare and not calamity

# Wrestling with Doubt

What Do You  
Believe?



# Wrestling with Doubt

- Application to Life:
- **Doubting is normal**
  - Scriptures filled with instances where people struggle to believe.
  - Doubt is not to reject Christ.
  - Doubt does not make one an enemy of the Church.

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DOUBT**



# Wrestling with Doubt

- Application to Life:
- Christ was compassionate on doubters
  - He doesn't humiliate Thomas, but invites him to see the truth more clearly: "Put your finger here" (John 20:27).
  - Rather than scorning and shaming Christ had compassion on them.

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# Wrestling with Doubt

- Application to Life:
- **Doubt is not a virtue to be pursued**
  - When it comes to core beliefs, doubt can become a real danger if left unchecked.
  - “Let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind” (James 1:6).

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