

Uncertainties or Doubts

In my short life of 74 years, I have indeed been guilty of doubt many times and had a lot of uncertainty also. In Pastor Prince's sermon on August 13, he highlighted the Apostle Peter's doubt as described in Matthew chapter 14 where Jesus invited Peter to come to Him by walking on the water. I, and I'm sure many others, think of doubting Thomas as the best example of how even Jesus' disciples often missed the main point of His teachings. The first doubt was shared with the others in the boat as they thought Jesus was a ghost vice actually walking on water, then Peter said "if it is you", and then after a short display of faith by getting out of the boat and walking towards Jesus; Peter takes his eyes off Jesus, looks at the water and waves and begins to sink. The gospel message in the sermon was clear to me. That even in our doubt and failures; Jesus is there to rescue us.

Today as I look at going on Thursday for a knee replacement surgery I face uncertainties concerning the operation, but I also have less doubt about the outcome. What's the difference? For me, uncertainty is OK sometimes or really scary at others. For example, if I am tossing a plastic lure at that big bass I'm fishing for there is no way I know I will actually get a bite and then land the fish. Not knowing if a hurricane will actually come ashore with resulting destructing is pretty scary. There is a lot of other things I do not know about or am very confident of the outcome of my actions or the actions of others. I would imagine life would be quite boring if we always knew the answers or results. Often as we face those uncertainties we fail to act due to fear, anxiety, etc. For me, this is where doubt comes into my life. It may be a play on the words I am using, but doubt is when the uncertainties take over my thoughts and actions. I do not have the surgery because I doubt the surgeon's skills or I fail to heed the evacuation order because I doubt the storm will come ashore. Doubt at the worst case might impact my faith in the resurrection of my Lord or question the validity of scripture teachings.

Lifted up by my brothers and sisters at Christ in prayer and encouraging words along with the information and knowledge about the operation I have confidence the eventual outcome will leave me healthier and with less pain. However, the real confidence I have is placing the outcome in my Lord's hands knowing He is with me always. Long after the operation and as I continue life's journey I will still have Jesus. His love for me and for you and all mankind is the answer to all doubt. When our faith is weak He lifts us up. If troubles and uncertainties worry you, look to Jesus. He will lift you up. If sin seems to be in control in your life, repent and look to Jesus. He will lift you up. We praise God for His plan for the world's salvation and honor Him by sharing this message of love with all we meet and know. We are bold to confess "Jesus is Lord".

Your brother in Christ,

John Lange