



No Doubting Allowed
9-16-07

Mark 9:24,

1) Honest skepticism isn't Cynicism

e.g. **Pontius Pilate**

John 18:37 – *"I am a King – but my kingdom is not of this world. I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."*
Pilate ask cynically, *"What is truth?"*

Pilate like all Cynics wasn't looking for answers.
Cynics make their conclusion about life before the questions have even been asked.

Beneath cynicism is a fear of accepting responsibility / of having to change direction / admitting your wrong / that someone else might be right

Matthew 27:24

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, and that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and he washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, "I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your responsibility."

2) Honest doubt isn't Unbelief.

As the bible uses it, Unbelief is not just that they don't believe. It is that they won't believe.

Rom 1:18-19

men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,
²⁰ *For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. = suppress the truth*

John 8:31-32

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free ."

<p>The human mind is never more clever and resourceful than when it is about the business of self justification.</p>

I can't choose to believe something.

"In general, a person cannot choose what to believe there and then. Belief is something that happens to a person, not something he or she does"

Richard Swinburne,

Mark Twain's definition of faith

... trying to believe what you know ain't so.

Pro 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Don't lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

There is a fundamental difference between belief and commitment.

That means

Sometimes I will have to make a 100% commitment to something, even though I do not have 100% certainty in my beliefs about it.

I can expect the sense of certainty in my beliefs to ebb and flow, to go up and down. That's part of the human condition.

The most important decisions generally require 100% commitment, but do not give 100% certainty.

Mark 9:22

But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.

23 Everything is possible for him who believes.

24 I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief.