



THE VICTORY OVER THE DARKNESS SERIES

Learning to Live by Faith

OVERCOMING DOUBT



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NEIL T. ANDERSON

Overcoming Doubt: The Victory Over the Darkness Series, Neil T. Anderson, Gospel Light Publications, 2004, 0830752889, 9780830752881, 136 pages. Everyone has doubts. Doubting is a normal part of the process of arriving at an ultimate decision of belief or unbelief. Persistent doubting, however can affect your mental health, keeping you from living a productive life. The answer is to be assured of what you believe and start living by faith in God. Dr. Anderson explains the nature of doubting and the nature of faith, leading you to go beyond your doubts to live a fruitful life. You will come to understand the spiritual battle waged daily for your mind, as it is here where many doubts are formed. You are God's dear child and He has promised to guide you into truth. Remember that God is truth and He cannot lie and learn to overcome your doubts by choosing to believe in Him and His timeless Word..

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Idols of the Heart Learning to Long for God Alone, Elyse Fitzpatrick, Feb 1, 2001, , 240 pages. Many people desire to live godly lives but feel trapped in habitual sins. This book reveals that at the heart of every besetting sin lies idolatry. - Back cover..

Mastering Ministry Mastering the Pastoral Role, Kent Hughes, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Jun 15, 2010, , 150 pages. The Mastering Ministry Series covers the various challenges of a ministry encounters and teaches how to deal with them-one subject at a time. Mastering Ministry is a perfect

The Holy Spirit The Treasures of John Owen for Today's Readers, John Owen, R. J. K. Law, Dec 1, 1998, , 208 pages. 'Owen on the Holy Spirit', as this work has been known to generations of Christians, was written by the greatest theologian of the Puritan era. It is, without question, one of

Stomping Out Depression , Neil T. Anderson, Dave Park, Dec 4, 2001, Religion, 248 pages. Once depression was thought only to be an adult problem. But research clearly indicates that depression has become common among modern teens and pre-teens. Often teens

Extreme faith , Neil T. Anderson, David Park, 1996, , 209 pages. Where is God when I need him most? Can God use me? What's so different about being a Christian? The authors answer those questions and more as they explore one of the most

Sabbath Keeping Finding Freedom in the Rhythms of Rest, Lynne M. Baab, Jan 6, 2005, Music, 132 pages. Full of collected insights and prayers from Sabbath keepers of all ages and backgrounds, this guidebook reminds us we are free to rest each week, to slow down, and to enjoy our

Higher Ground Taking Faith to the Edge, Neil T. Anderson, Robert L. Saucy, Dave Park, Apr 1, 1999, , 211 pages. Geared for teens, this high-octane youth version of The Common Made Holy shows young people how they have been given a brand-new identity in Jesus Christ. Ideal for youth

Preaching Essentials A Practical Guide, Lenny Luchetti, 2012, , 224 pages. A Comprehensive Handbook for Today's Preacher.

Beyond the Shadow of Doubt Overcoming Hidden Doubts That Sabotage Your Faith, Mark Chironna, 2000, Religion, 216 pages. Dr. Chironna shows readers how to acquire "doubt-busting faith" in order to discover God-given capabilities, competence, and significance..

Winning Spiritual Warfare , Neil T. Anderson, Jul 1, 1991, , 48 pages. Are you facing a spiritual battle that seems too big to win? A sense of hopelessness or defeat that you can't seem to beat? Satan knows he can block your effectiveness as a

The Christ-centered marriage discovering and enjoying your freedom in Christ together, Neil T. Anderson, Charles Mylander, 1996, Family & Relationships, 325 pages. This book gives biblical and practical helps for any marriage - healthy, in trouble or disastrous. This book is a great tool to use

personally, or to share. Use it to protect

The Path to Reconciliation Connecting People to God and Each Other, Neil T. Anderson, Jan 1, 2008, Reconciliation, 181 pages. .

Purity Under Pressure , Neil T. Anderson, David Park, 1995, Juvenile Nonfiction, 252 pages. Few things cause as much confusion and conflict for youth as making right choices for sexual purity. With the new youth movement toward abstinence, many Christian kids are

Personal Religion, Public Reality? Towards a Knowledge of Faith, Dallas Willard, Jul 9, 2009, Religion, 304 pages. At a time when many people think that it is irrational to believe in God, renowned philosopher Dallas Willard challenges the idea that spiritual wisdom is somehow distinct from

Winning the Battle Within Realistic Steps to Overcoming Sexual Strongholds, Neil T. Anderson, Jul 1, 2008, Psychology, 224 pages. For too many believers, God's wonderful creation of sex has become a source of spiritual slavery rather than a liberating blessing. Neil T. Anderson presents a clarifying

Everyone has doubts. Doubting is a normal part of the process of arriving at an ultimate decision of belief or unbelief. Persistent doubting, however can affect your mental health, keeping you from living a productive life. The answer is to be assured of what you believe and start living by faith in God. Dr. Anderson explains the nature of doubting and the nature of faith, leading you to go beyond your doubts to live a fruitful live. You will come to understand the spiritual battle waged daily for your mind, as it is here where many doubts are formed. You are God's dear child and He has promised to guide you into truth. Remember that God is truth and He cannot lie and learn to overcome your doubts by choosing to believe in Him and His timeless Word.

DR. NEIL T. ANDERSON is founder and president of Freedom in Christ Ministries. He was formerly the chairman of the Practical Theology Department at Talbot School of Theology. He holds five degrees from Talbot, Pepperdine University and Arizona State University and has authored several bestselling books on spiritual freedom, including Victory Over the Darkness and The Bondage Breaker.

In any intelligent thinking human who HONESTLY wishes to know the truth and is not looking for more comfort derived entirely from ancient made up stories intended to provide comfort to those who didnt have science to answer their questions, doubt is a natural normal response to information provided without any proof (or logic). Religions only chance at survival is to paint doubt as a bad (or evil)thing. This book continues to push that agenda. Faith is not a noble thing. Faith is willful ignorance and fear. It is VERY dangerous to "live by faith" . The 9/11 hijackers lived by faith.Teaching people to dismiss logic and reason in favor of magical beings in the sky has been proven VERY detrimental to those who decide not to follow the religion of the region.

Neil T Anderson is a best-selling author on spiritual freedom including 'Victory Over the Darkness','The Bondage Breaker', 'The Steps to Freedom in Christ' and 'Daily in Christ'. He is founder and president emeritus of Freedom in Christ Ministries. He was formerly chairman of the Practical Theology Department at Talbot School of Theology.[1]

Neil Anderson was raised on a farm in Minnesota to Scandinavian parents. After high school he joined the Navy and received training as an electronics technician and also worked as a sea and rescue swimmer. After being discharged honorably from the Navy he joined engineering school. After graduation, he took up a job as an aerospace engineer. He found the Lord while attending a Lay Institute For Evangelism by Campus Crusade for Christ. Two years after coming to the Lord he resigned his position at Honeywell and enrolled at Talbot School of Theology, the graduate school of Biola University.[2]

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Evening came and His disciples were concerned that the crowd, which had swollen to 5,000, had nothing to eat. They suggested that Jesus send the crowd away. "But Jesus said to them, 'They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat!'" (Matt. 14:16). How were these men going to feed 5,000 people with their limited resources? When confronted with what appears to be an impossible task, how do we typically respond? If we don't believe we have the resources to do it, doubts quickly turn to unbelief. The truth is, without the presence of Christ in our lives, we won't ever have the resources to do God's will. We can perform what appear to be Christian duties in our own strength and with our own resources, but nothing we accomplish by that means will last for eternity.

"Ordering the people to sit down on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food, and breaking the loaves He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds" (Matt. 14:19). The 5,000 were fed and the disciples even picked up left-overs-each man had a basketful. What an object lesson! Did they learn from it? Were all their doubts erased?

After sending the multitudes away, Jesus sent the disciples across the Sea of Galilee and then went up on the mountain to pray (see Matt. 14:23). Later in the night, the disciples rowed against a storm, getting nowhere. Jesus walked across the water to the disciples, and Mark records, "He intended to pass by them" (6:48). Jesus intends to pass by the self-sufficient. Do we want to row against the storms of life and hope to survive by our own strength and resources? We can go ahead; God will let us. We can row until our arms fall off, but eventually the storms will bring us down. Or we can call upon the name of the Lord and be saved. The disciples called upon the Lord and the water was calmed. Mark records:

When the disciples first saw Jesus walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost; they were afraid. Jesus said, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid" (Matt. 14:27). The impulsive Peter was so relieved and excited that he asked Jesus to command that he come to Him on the water. Jesus said, "Come" (Matt. 14:29), and Peter did. At least he did for a few steps, until He took His eyes off Jesus and felt the effects of the wind. As Peter started to sink, he cried out for Jesus to save him. The Lord stretched out His hand and said, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matt. 14:31). Why did he doubt? Why do we?

We need to put this in perspective. The twelve disciples witnessed Jesus heal the sick, feed the 5,000 and calm the sea. He demonstrated His authority over demons, diseases, death and nature, and still they doubted. When the resurrected Christ appeared to many people, many of them "worshiped him; but some doubted" (Matt. 28:17, NIV). Even John the Baptist struggled with doubts and sent two of his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?" (Luke 7:19). Jesus responded:

Is it any wonder that people doubt today when we haven't seen or witnessed any such miracles? Jesus said to doubting Thomas, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed" (John 20:29). What we have today is the witness of credible people who have seen, heard, touched and were transformed by the love of God. We also have the testimony of believers for 20 centuries, and the internal witness of the Holy Spirit who leads us into all truth (see John 16:13).

Doubt can be defined as the absence of both assent (agreement) and dissent (disagreement) to a certain proposition. It is the lack of commitment to believe or not to believe. For example, Thomas had not seen the resurrected Christ when it was reported that the other disciples had seen Him. Thomas said, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe" (John 20:25). When Thomas made this statement, he was not doubting. He already had made his decision-"I will not believe." His colleagues' words were not enough to sway him. He wanted physical evidence.

Doubt is when the evidence of pro and con is evenly balanced. Such doubt is a prelude to belief or a precursor to unbelief. The journey of faith begins with doubt-such doubt is not unbelief. Unbelief is a conviction about something or someone, which is in itself a belief. To say "I don't believe in God" is a conviction that there is no God, which is a belief. Therefore, doubt does not imply unbelief. It simply means that one is unconvinced.

Jesus consistently condemned unbelief whenever and wherever He found it. Yet He tolerated doubt, because it was transitory-a nonpermanent state of mind. We must be careful, however, because the word "unbelief" in the Bible can refer to doubt. That is probably the case in Mark 9, in which the desperate father asked for help:

Thomas became convinced when the Lord said to him, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing" (John 20:27). The evidence overwhelmed Thomas. He moved from unbelief to belief, saying, "My Lord and my God!" (v. 28). Thomas was confronted with something more than physical evidence, since it is doubtful that any of the disciples told Jesus what Thomas had said. His response indicated more than a belief in Jesus' resurrection. Proclaiming Jesus as Lord (Kurios is the New Testament equivalent of the Old Testament "Jehovah") and God (Theos), Thomas declared his belief in the divinity of Jesus.

Have you ever noticed that nobody lives by doubt? We live by faith in someone or something, or we don't live very well. Doubt leads to inaction; belief moves to action. This is partially what James was referring to when he wrote "I will show you my faith by my works" (2:18). What can you show for your doubts; and how much is accomplished by those of us who lack confidence in anyone or anything?

Many of us who doubt struggle with decision making, but those of us who have great faith are decisive and take action. For example, Joshua, a servant of God, was such a great leader because he never sat on the fence. When an angel, appearing in the form of a man, stood in front of Joshua with a sword drawn in his hand, "Joshua went to him and said to him, 'Are you for us or for our adversaries?'" (Josh. 5:13). The angel identified himself as the captain of the host of the Lord and commanded Joshua to remove his shoes, for Joshua stood on holy ground. Joshua did so. He believed and obeyed.

Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (24:14-15).

Great leaders do not waver in unbelief. Some doubters may think they are leaders, but nobody is following them. Can any of us imagine a team on the sidelines in a close game listening to a coach who can't decide what play to run next? Where's the inspiration in that? The problem is, people will follow someone of strong conviction regardless of what they believe. If that person or cause is passionate enough, people will follow. Why do people like Hitler come to power? Hitler was decisive and filled with confidence. Germany's terrible state in the years following World War I demanded leadership-someone who could get the country back on track to world dominance. Hitler persuaded his followers to believe that they were a superrace-to their detriment and that of the world.

Athletes usually believe their coaches if their coaches have proven themselves superior in their sport. Coaches don't have to be former champions themselves-they can be just as effective as leaders or more so if they have produced champions or championship teams. Athletes will do whatever their coaches say, because they believe their coaches are right. When coaches challenge techniques and suggest changes, athletes will adjust even if at first it feels awkward. We move from doubt to belief based on the track record of our leaders. When we truly believe in an authority figure, we will follow in complete obedience.

On the contrary, when doubt pervades an individual, it is called skepticism or definitive doubt. The skeptic despairs of ever knowing truth with certainty. This is the downside of postmodernism. In secular education and the media, the idea that no absolute truth exists is the prevailing philosophy-which is essentially the same as saying there is no God. This idea leads to ambivalence, which is just another form of doubt. An ambivalent society doesn't care. Ambivalent people are emotionally flat. They have no convictions and no purpose for living.

The reason doubt pervades society is because doubt is easier to establish than faith. The devil has the easier job. For instance, defense lawyers don't have to prove innocence. All they have to do is establish a reasonable doubt and the jury is obligated to acquit the defendant. On the other hand, to convict someone, prosecutors have to prove that the accused is guilty beyond reasonable doubt.

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