



Scripture nugget - Ten thousand difficulties do not make one doubt

The way we may be sure that we know Him is to keep His Commandments. Whoever says, "I know Him," but does not keep His Commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him (1 John 2:3-4).

Obedience to God's Commandments is the key to faith. *The way we may be sure that we know Him is to keep His Commandments (1 John 2:3).* St John tells us that the way to gain a deeper knowledge of God and to experience Him is to keep His Commandments. How much we know of God depends on how much Christ reveals His Heavenly Father to us (cf. John 1:18). How much God reveals Himself to us depends on the attitude of our hearts. Christ teaches: *"If you love Me, you will keep My Commandments (John 14:15).* Scripture tells us that *"faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).* Truly inspiring are the heroes of faith in the Old Testament, particularly Abraham. Abraham obeyed God's command to leave home at age 75 to a place he did not know. Then when God commanded that he offered up his only son Isaac as a sacrifice to God, he did not question God. As God has told Abraham that his descendants would issue from Isaac, Abraham reasoned that God was able to raise Isaac from the dead (cf. Hebrews 11:19). Whatever his feelings, Abraham obeyed without question, proving beyond a shadow of doubt his absolute faith and trust in God! For that, God blessed Abraham abundantly!

Ten thousand difficulties do not make one doubt (Blessed John Henry Newman). God is a mystery. Even though He is all around us and in us, usually we cannot see Him or feel Him. Faith is higher than and cannot be explained by Science or logic. It is a supernatural virtue infused in our souls as a gift from God to hearts that are open to Him. With the help of the grace from the Holy Spirit, we in faith submit to all that is revealed to us by God with our mental assent. Thus, we believe without a doubt the truths and divine doctrine revealed to us simply because they are from God Himself Who is truth and Who cannot lie. Because our faith is a mystery, there will be times when we have difficulty in understanding it with our limited human intellect. But, as Blessed John Henry Newman put it: ten thousand difficulties do not make one doubt. A difficulty is not a doubt. A difficulty asks "how?" A doubt says: "Impossible. I don't believe it." When Blessed Mother Mary was told at the Annunciation that she would be the mother of the Messiah, she wondered aloud how this could be possible, but she had no doubt that with God everything was possible (cf. Luke 1:37-38). On the other hand, when Angel Gabriel announced to Zechariah that his old wife Elizabeth would be pregnant, Zechariah did not believe it though he did not say so (cf. Luke 1:20) and was struck dumb till the birth of John the Baptist.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, without faith, it is impossible to please God (cf. Hebrews 11:6). We will lose our faith if we do not embrace it and work diligently upon it as depicted by the seed that fell on the path and quickly eaten by the bird (cf. Matthew 13:1-23). Help me treasure my faith like the priceless pearl found by the merchant who, to acquire it, sold all that he possessed (cf. Matthew 13:45-46). Purify my heart of all doubts and iniquities. Impart to me the graces needed to fulfill Your will so that I will walk on the true path of Your Commandments, the sure way to stronger faith. Mary, my perfect model of faith, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.