



Antonio Ciseri "Ecce Homo" (John 19:5)



# *Steps To Christ*

Ellen G. White

## Chapter 12 What to Do with Doubt

## Memory Verse – Matthew 16:26 (NKJV)

“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

# Scriptures

New King James Version

## Scriptures

1. What two types of people come to and go from the truth?

John 3:20, 21 (NKJV). “<sup>20</sup>For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

## Scriptures

2. What counsel did Jesus give regarding the light?

John 12:35, 36 (NKJV). “<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus said to them, ‘A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going.’”

<sup>36</sup> While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.' These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them."

## Scriptures

### 3. What results from love or hate?

1 John 2:10, 11 (NKJV). “<sup>10</sup> He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. <sup>11</sup> But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”

## Scriptures

### 4. What warning is given?

Hebrews 3:12 (NKJV). “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;”

## Scriptures

5. What gives fellowship with other believers?

1 John 1:7 (NKJV). “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

## Scriptures

6. What change to our present condition will be made?

1 Corinthians 13:12 (NKJV). “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.”

## Scriptures

7. In whom does the Lord have no pleasure?

Hebrews 10:38 (NKJV). “Now the just shall live by faith; But if *anyone* draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”

## Scriptures

8. What eventually happens to those who doubt the truth, and don't make a choice for it?

1 John 2:19 (NKJV). “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out* that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.”

## Scriptures

9. What condition makes understanding truth possible?

John 7:17 (NKJV). “If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or *whether I speak on My own authority.*”

## Scriptures

10. What is the reason the unrighteous will perish?

2 Thessalonians 2:10 (NKJV). “and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”

## Scriptures

11. What happens to those who choose not to receive the truth?

2 Thessalonians 2:11, 12 (NKJV). “<sup>11</sup> And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, <sup>12</sup> that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

## Scriptures

12. What restrains our desire to speculate?

Deuteronomy 29:29 (NKJV). “The secret things *belong* to the LORD our God, but those *things which are revealed belong* to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”

## Scriptures

13. Why do some have trouble with Paul's writings?

2 Peter 3:16 (NKJV). “as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.”

## Scriptures

14. Why will some believers leave the truth?

1 Timothy 4:1 (NKJV). “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,”

# Study Questions

## Study Questions

1. God never asks us to believe without supplying this on which to base our faith. (Paragraph 2).

“God never asks us to believe, without giving sufficient evidence upon which to base our faith.”

## Study Questions

2. What three things about God are established by testimony that appeals to our reason? (2).

“His existence, His character, the truthfulness of His word, are all established by testimony that appeals to our reason; and this testimony is abundant.”

## Study Questions

3. What is true regarding the possibility of doubt? (2).

“Yet God has never removed the possibility of doubt. . . . Those who wish to doubt will have opportunity; while those who really desire to know the truth will find plenty of evidence on which to rest their faith.”

## Study Questions

4. What should our faith rest on? (2).

“Our faith must rest upon evidence, not demonstration.”

## Study Questions

5. How much can we understand of God's purposes?  
(4).

“We can understand as much of His purposes as it is for our good to know; and beyond this we must still trust the hand that is omnipotent, the heart that is full of love.”

## Study Questions

6. List some mysteries that we can never fully comprehend. (5).

“The entrance of sin into the world, the incarnation of Christ, regeneration, the resurrection, and many other subjects presented in the Bible, are mysteries too deep for the human mind to explain, or even fully to comprehend.”

## Study Questions

7. What happens the more you search the Bible? (7).  
“The more he searches the Bible, the deeper is his conviction that it is the word of the living God, and human reason bows before the majesty of divine revelation.”

## Study Questions

8. What is Satan's work? (9).

“But it is Satan's work to pervert the investigative powers of the mind.”

## Study Questions

9. How do some people react when they don't understand? (9).

“A certain pride is mingled with the consideration of Bible truth, so that men feel impatient and defeated if they cannot explain every portion of Scripture to their satisfaction. It is too humiliating to them to acknowledge that they do not understand the inspired words.

They are unwilling to wait patiently until God shall see fit to reveal the truth to them. They feel that their unaided human wisdom is sufficient to enable them to comprehend the Scripture, and failing to do this, they virtually deny its authority.”

## Study Questions

10. What has been a cause of doubt and perplexity to many? (9).

“It is true that many theories and doctrines popularly supposed to be derived from the Bible have no foundation in its teaching, and indeed are contrary to the whole tenor of inspiration. These things have been a cause of doubt and perplexity to many minds.”

## Study Questions

11. Through whom do we obtain understanding of God's word? (11).

“God intends that even in this life the truths of His word shall be ever unfolding to His people. There is only one way in which this knowledge can be obtained. We can attain to an understanding of God's word only through the illumination of that Spirit by which the word was given.”

## Study Questions

12. What must we do if we would not have the Scriptures clouded to our understanding? (12).

“If we would not have the Scriptures clouded to our understanding, so that the plainest truths shall not be comprehended, we must have the simplicity and faith of a little child, ready to learn, and beseeching the aid of the Holy Spirit.”

## Study Questions

13. When will Bible study strengthen skepticism? (13).

“When the word of God is opened without reverence and without prayer; when the thoughts and affections are not fixed upon God, or in harmony with His will, the mind is clouded with doubts; and in the very study of the Bible, skepticism strengthens.”

## Study Questions

14. When are people liable to err in their understanding of scripture? (13).

“Whenever men are not in word and deed seeking to be in harmony with God, then, however learned they may be, they are liable to err in their understanding of Scripture, and it is not safe to trust to their explanations.”

## Study Questions

15. What is usually the real cause of doubt and skepticism? (14).

“Disguise it as they may, the real cause of doubt and skepticism, in most cases, is the love of sin.”

## Study Questions

16. How does one arrive at truth? (14).

“In order to arrive at truth, we must have a sincere desire to know the truth and a willingness of heart to obey it.”

## Study Questions

17. What should we do in order to understand and perform duties of which we are now in doubt? (15).

“Instead of questioning and caviling concerning that which you do not understand, give heed to the light that already shines upon you, and you will receive greater light.”

## Study Questions

18. Describe the evidence of experience. (16).

“There is an evidence that is open to all,—the most highly educated, and the most illiterate,—the evidence of experience. God invites us to prove for ourselves the reality of His word, the truth of His promises. He bids us ‘taste and see that the Lord is good.’ Psalm 34:8.

Instead of depending upon the word of another, we are to taste for ourselves. He declares, 'Ask, and ye shall receive.' John 16:24. His promises will be fulfilled. They have never failed; they never can fail. And as we draw near to Jesus, and rejoice in the fullness of His love, our doubt and darkness will disappear in the light of His presence."

## Study Questions

19. How can we know the Bible is true, that Christ is the Son of God? (17).

“Do you ask why I believe in Jesus? Because He is to me a divine Saviour. Why do I believe the Bible? Because I have found it to be the voice of God to my soul.’ We may have the witness in ourselves that the Bible is true, that Christ is the Son of God.”

## Study Questions

20. How do we obtain a clearer understanding of His word? (18)

“When the people of God are growing in grace, they will be constantly obtaining a clearer understanding of His word.”

## Study Questions

21. When is the time when all things hard to explain or understand will be made known? (19).

“By faith we may look to the hereafter and grasp the pledge of God for a growth of intellect, the human faculties uniting with the divine, and every power of the soul being brought into direct contact with the Source of light.

We may rejoice that all which has perplexed us in the providences of God will then be made plain, things hard to be understood will then find an explanation; and where our finite minds discovered only confusion and broken purposes, we shall see the most perfect and beautiful harmony.”

# Thought Questions

## Thought Questions

1. Why do I always feel insecure about my Christian experience?

## Thought Questions

2. How can I help others to believe the Bible?

## Thought Questions

3. Why do some brilliant Bible students end up believing false doctrine?

## Thought Questions

4. How can I know if those whom I hear teaching the Bible are really telling the truth?

## Thought Questions

5. What do I do if I find my teacher at school is placing doubts in the minds of the other students?

## Thought Questions

6. How can so many people who spend their whole life studying the Bible differ so greatly on what they believe?

## Thought Questions

7. I have not been able to trust anyone, why should I trust God?

## Thought Questions

8. Will Satan ever suggest wrong meanings about the Bible to me?

## Thought Questions

9. Why do I have to pray before I study?

## Thought Questions

10. I seem plagued by doubts. They won't go away.

## Thought Questions

11. I like to read science magazines, but they are filled with the theory of evolution. Should I read them?

## Thought Questions

12. It's hard to hold on to my faith. All of my friends and relatives have good reasons why the Bible is not true. What can I do?

## Thought Questions

13. I just know it's true. I have a good feeling about it.

## Thought Questions

14. Jesus spoke to me last night in a dream, and told me what to believe. I don't need the bible to help me believe.

## Thought Questions

15. Why do I always have a distrusting and resentful spirit toward those who are spiritually successful?

## Thought Questions

16. Why do those who believe wrong doctrine find it so hard to change their beliefs when shown the truth?

# Thought Questions

17. [Add your questions].

# Problem Solving

## Problem Solving

The following teenage girl attends a public school, and is doing well in her studies. She seems to be well adjusted to all the changes in her life, but her real problem is the world is pulling on her spiritual life. She is facing more and more pressure from her friends to be involved in parties, Friday night events, sports, etc. Her parents see the danger, but she doesn't want to listen, fearing rejection by her friends.

She doesn't want to end up alone. What would you do to help her not leave God's plan for her life?

Note: You might work with the following information: causes, options, solutions, decisions, scriptures that apply.

# Additional Exercises

## Additional Exercises

1. Add three more items to your “Appreciation List.”

## Additional Exercises

### 2. Additional Reading:

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pp. 672-676.

“The Nature and Influence of the Testimonies.”

Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 281-290. “The  
Exodus.”

The Ministry of Healing, pp. 427-438. “God Will  
Provide.”

## Additional Exercises

### 2. Additional Reading (Continued)

The Great Controversy, pp. 518-530. “The  
Snares of Satan”

## Additional Exercises

3. Study the topic the “unpardonable sin.”

## Additional Exercises

4. Find examples of church leaders that entertained doubts, and describe what happen to them. (For example: Kellogg, Jones, Canright, Ballenger, Waggoner).

## Additional Exercises

5. Describe one example of how the information learned in this chapter can help YOU in YOUR daily Christian life.

## Additional Exercises

6. Find at least one opportunity to explain what you have learned to one or more persons.

# Ellen G. White Quotes

*The Great Controversy*, pp. 526-528

“There is nothing that he desires more than to destroy confidence in God and in His word. Satan stands at the head of the great army of doubters, and he works to the utmost of his power to beguile souls into his ranks. It is becoming fashionable to doubt. There is a large class by whom the word of God is looked upon with distrust for the same reason as was its Author—because it reprove and condemns sin.

Those who are unwilling to obey its requirements endeavor to overthrow its authority. They read the Bible, or listen to its teachings as presented from the sacred desk, merely to find fault with the Scriptures or with the sermon. Not a few become infidels in order to justify or excuse themselves in neglect of duty. Others adopt skeptical principles from pride and indolence. Too ease-loving to distinguish themselves by accomplishing anything worthy of honor,

which requires effort and self-denial, they aim to secure a reputation for superior wisdom by criticizing the Bible. There is much which the finite mind, unenlightened by divine wisdom, is powerless to comprehend; and thus they find occasion to criticize. There are many who seem to feel that it is a virtue to stand on the side of unbelief, skepticism, and infidelity. But underneath an appearance of candor it will be found that such persons are actuated by self-confidence and pride.

Many delight in finding something in the Scriptures to puzzle the minds of others. Some at first criticize and reason on the wrong side, from a mere love of controversy. They do not realize that they are thus entangling themselves in the snare of the fowler. But having openly expressed unbelief, they feel that they must maintain their position. Thus they unite with the ungodly and close to themselves the gates of Paradise.

“God has given in His word sufficient evidence of its divine character. The great truths which concern our redemption are clearly presented. By the aid of the Holy Spirit, which is promised to all who seek it in sincerity, every man may understand these truths for himself. God has granted to men a strong foundation upon which to rest their faith.

“Yet the finite minds of men are inadequate fully to comprehend the plans and purposes of the Infinite One. We can never by searching find out God. We must not attempt to lift with presumptuous hand the curtain behind which He veils His majesty. The apostle exclaims: ‘How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!’ Romans 11:33. We can so far comprehend His dealings with us, and the motives by which He is actuated, that we may discern boundless love and mercy united to infinite power.

Our Father in heaven orders everything in wisdom and righteousness, and we are not to be dissatisfied and distrustful, but to bow in reverent submission. He will reveal to us as much of His purposes as it is for our good to know, and beyond that we must trust the Hand that is omnipotent, the Heart that is full of love.

“While God has given ample evidence for faith, He will never remove all excuse for unbelief. All who look for hooks to hang their doubts upon will find them.

And those who refuse to accept and obey God's word until every objection has been removed, and there is no longer an opportunity for doubt, will never come to the light.

“Distrust of God is the natural outgrowth of the unrenewed heart, which is at enmity with Him. But faith is inspired by the Holy Spirit, and it will flourish only as it is cherished. No man can become strong in faith without a determined effort.

Unbelief strengthens as it is encouraged; and if men, instead of dwelling upon the evidences which God has given to sustain their faith, permit themselves to question and cavil, they will find their doubts constantly becoming more confirmed.

“But those who doubt God’s promises and distrust the assurance of His grace are dishonoring Him; and their influence, instead of drawing others to Christ, tends to repel them from Him.

They are unproductive trees, that spread their dark branches far and wide, shutting away the sunlight from other plants, and causing them to droop and die under the chilling shadow. The lifework of these persons will appear as a never-ceasing witness against them. They are sowing seeds of doubt and skepticism that will yield an unfailing harvest.

“There is but one course for those to pursue who honestly desire to be freed from doubts.

Instead of questioning and caviling concerning that which they do not understand, let them give heed to the light which already shines upon them, and they will receive greater light. Let them do every duty which has been made plain to their understanding, and they will be enabled to understand and perform those of which they are now in doubt.”

*Selected Messages, vol. 1, p. 46*

“When once men have admitted doubt and unbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God, they are strongly tempted to adhere to the opinions which they have avowed before others. Their theories and notions fix themselves like a gloomy cloud over the mind, shutting out every ray of evidence in favor of the truth.

The doubts indulged through ignorance, pride, or love of sinful practices, rivet upon the soul fetters that are seldom broken. Christ, and He alone, can give the needed power to break them.”

*Christ's Object Lessons, p. 108*

“Satan works on human minds, leading them to think that there is wonderful knowledge to be gained apart from God. By deceptive reasoning he led Adam and Eve to doubt God’s word, and to supply its place with a theory that led to disobedience. And his sophistry is doing today what it did in Eden.

Teachers who mingle the sentiments of infidel authors with the education they are giving, plant in the minds of youth thoughts that will lead to distrust of God and transgression of His law. Little do they know what they are doing. Little do they realize what will be the result of their work.”

*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 211

“It is Satan’s plan to weaken the faith of God’s people in the *Testimonies*. Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, and then the downward march to perdition.

When the *Testimonies*, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction.”

Quiz

## Quiz

1. T  F The main reason for doubt and skepticism is the fear of God. (SC 12.14).
2. T  F Our faith must rest on demonstration. (SC 12.2).
3.  T F It is possible to strengthen skepticism while studying the Bible. (SC 12.13).

## Quiz

4.  T F Some people feel impatient and defeated if they cannot explain every portion of Scripture. (SC 12.9).
5.  T F It is impossible for finite minds fully to comprehend the character and the works of God. (SC 12.3).

## Quiz

6. List one mystery in the word of God that we can never fully comprehend. (SC 12.5).

“The entrance of sin into the world, the incarnation of Christ, regeneration, the resurrection, and many other subjects presented in the Bible, are mysteries too deep for the human mind to explain, or even fully to comprehend.”

## Quiz

7. What does God desire mankind to exercise in their study of the Bible. (SC 12.12).”

“God desires man to exercise his reasoning powers; . . .”

## Quiz

8. What two things do we need to have in order to arrive at the truth? (SC 12.14).

“In order to arrive at truth, we must have a sincere desire to know the truth and a willingness of heart to obey it.”

## Quiz

9. When will I have a clear understanding of all that is not understood now? (1 Corinthians 13:12 NKJV).

“For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.”

## Quiz

10. What condition will false doctrine cause in the last days? (1 Timothy 4:1 NKJV).

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,”

## Quiz

11. What happens to those who doubt and refuse to believe the truth? (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 NKJV).
- A. Stop trying to believe anything.
  - B. Don't know what they believe.
  - C. Believe the truth, but cannot get new light.
  - D. Believe a lie.

## Quiz

12. What agency is the greatest aid to Bible study?  
(SC 12:11).
- A. A Bible commentary
  - B. A Bible concordance
  - C. The Holy Spirit
  - D. A knowledge of Hebrew and Greek

## Quiz

13. Which Bible writer wrote many things that were difficult to understand? (2 Peter 3:16 NKJV).

A. Peter

B. John

C. Paul

D. Moses

## Quiz

14. How do we receive greater light? (SC 12.15)

- A. Heed the light we already have
- B. Begin a more thorough investigation of the Bible
- C. Constantly review the past light
- D. Think more seriously about the truth

## Quiz

15. Complete the following:

“God never asks us to BELIEVE without giving sufficient EVIDENCE upon which to base our FAITH.” (SC 12.2).

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