

*Sermon Questions for Life Groups*  
**Can God Be Trusted? Gen. 15:1-21**

**Dr. John Neufeld**

**Sunday, November 20, 2016**

*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions  
or family or personal devotions*

1. How would you answer the question, "Can God be trusted?"
  
2. John Neufeld at the beginning of his sermon referenced the story of the Apostle Thomas; read John 20: 24 – 29. The term “Doubting Thomas” has been permanently enshrined to this disciple throughout history. Can you think of other Bible characters who struggled with faith and needed some sort of “proof”? (References – Judges 6: 36 – 40, II Kings 20: 1 – 11, etc.) In what ways are you like/unlike Thomas?
  
3. Dr Neufeld outlined the ways in which each of the following doubters act. Review their actions, and then consider how much like these doubters you are. Which one(s) typically end up in a negative outcome?
  - a. Habitual doubter
  - b. Fearful doubter
  - c. Philosophical doubter
  - d. Hopeful doubter
  
4. Consider Genesis 15:7 – 21 and explain the meaning of this ritual and the implications of God’s participation in it. How do you respond to the idea that God's unilateral covenant is sealed by a curse on himself? Apply this truth to your own final judgement.
  
5. Do you ever, like Abram, need reassurances that God will keep his promises to you (see Jer 34)?
  
6. Read Philippians 4:6-7 and Matthew 6:25-34 and discuss the following:

- a. In these two passages, we are told not to be anxious about anything. Do you feel that either of these passages imply that it is a sin to be anxious due to the lack of trust it shows in God? Explain your reasoning.
  - b. What reason do these passages give for not being anxious?
  - c. Is being anxious the same as having doubt?
7. John Neufeld indicated that the key verse in this passage was Genesis 15:6, which is reiterated in Romans 4: 13 – 25. Summarize the theological point that the Apostle Paul was trying to make, i.e. how can we please God?
8. One of the greatest chapters about Faith is Hebrews 11; this chapter gives highlights of the faith of many Biblical characters, but read verses 39 – 40. In terms of God’s promises for us, what can you take comfort in even though these promises may not take place in our lifetime?
9. John Neufeld quoted Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in saying: *“Though the mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceeding small; Though with patience He stands waiting, with exactness, grinds He all.”* From the perspective of God’s justice, what do you think this quote means for us? What do you think about God’s timing for His justice? Read Romans 12: 17 – 21, what does God expect of us?
10. Re-read Genesis 15:13-16. When you consider the case of the Amorites and the promise that God made to Abram, are you comforted by the way God gave the Amorites so many years to change their ways?
- a. Conversely, do you feel that since God was already promising the land to Abram, there was nothing that the Amorites could really do to change because God already knew how it would end?
  - b. How does God's foreknowledge and our free will come into play in this situation?
11. Billy Graham related in his crusades that when he accepted Jesus Christ as a young man, he didn’t understand everything, but accepted the Bible by faith and trusted God to reveal truths to him over time. Read John 20:29, and also Deuteronomy 29: 29. Think back in your own life before you accepted Jesus Christ, were there things that you had trouble believing about Jesus or the Bible in general? How about now, were some of those questions answered?