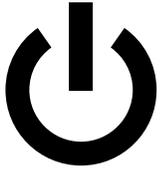


Title: Certain – Erasing Doubts of the Faith

Speaker: Steve Kozak

Key Verses: Matthew 14:24-28; Luke 7:18-22; 1 Corinthians 15; Hebrews 11:1-2

Summary: Our assurance in Jesus helps us overcome doubts of the faith.



Power Up: Take a moment to prepare

Steve describes growing up in a church culture where doubts were kept quiet. His unspoken doubts damaged his faith. What are your doubts?



Replay: Take some time to watch

Note the flow of Steve's talk: **1)** Personal battles with doubt; **2)** 5 ways to remove doubts; **3)** 4 evidences for certain faith. [See back side for details.]



Comment: Take some time to talk

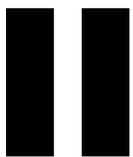
Read Matthew 14:22-33. *What does this story tell us about Peter? How have we characterized his faith? What others biblical figures doubt?*

Consider Steve's five ways to remove doubts. *What tough questions do you have? Whom can you ask? What tough realities are you slow to accept? Where do you need to accept mystery? What intellectual truths can you return to when your emotions run rabid.*

Steve asserts 100% certainty is not currently possible. *Agree or disagree? What degree of certainty are you satisfied with? How do each of his four evidences contribute to your certainty?* Be specific.

Steve says our world prefers emotion and opinion to fact. *What fuels this preference? Why is this preference dangerous? How do we respond?*

Read 1 Corinthian 15:1-19. *Why does the resurrection matter?*



Pause: Take a moment to pray

Thank God for certainty in the character and work of Jesus. Ask Him for opportunity to ask tough questions to trustworthy people who will provide acceptance and clarity. Ask Him for assurance amid uncertainty.



Take Action: Take a step forward

Get out your doubts. When they stay tucked away in your mind, your faith can fester. Grab an index card and jot down three to five questions you have about the faith. Then grab a trusted adult and ask those questions.

Bonus Features | Additional Notes and Quotes from Steve Kozak

Power Track Summary: You might know what you believe, but do you know why you believe it? Can you be sure that it is true, and even how to effectively communicate it? For many the claims of absolute truth, the trustworthiness of the Bible, and even the certainty of the resurrection—to name a few, are frequently called into question. This Power Track builds our certainty, showing how following Jesus is far more than wishful thinking or blind trust.

About the Speaker: Steve, the vice president of youth ministry for CE National is a 15-year veteran of Christian ministry to families and youth. He is a husband, father, and author.

“I want us to walk out of here okay with our doubts: doubt is not a terrible thing. I grew up thinking it was a terrible thing... That damaged me. I started to have questions. I was so ashamed of my questions, I never asked them. You know what happens when you don't ask questions? You don't get answers... I want us to learn to properly deal with doubt.”

Doubt is probably a permanent feature of the Christian life. It's like growing pains –sometimes it recedes; other times it's at the forefront.

Five Ways to Remove Doubts

1. **Be willing to ask the tough questions.** No question should ever be shunned. It doesn't matter how ridiculous or dangerous you think it is.
2. **Be careful who you ask.** Don't rely solely on the Internet (e.g., Siri, Google, Alexa). Be careful of the people you ask. Get differing opinions, which expands your knowledge.
3. **Accept the tough realities.** There are going to be answers to questions that you don't like. Intimacy with Christ flows out of tough realities.
4. **Some answers aren't clear.** Suffering? Free will? Timing of Jesus's Return? God is the great mystery. If not, He's not God. He's infinite.
5. **Rely on your intellect over your emotions.** “When emotions go crazy our intellect keeps us grounded.” You can say, “I know God is faithful.”

“The world is telling us that absolute truth does not exist; we are in a post-truth world. I'm here to tell you absolute truth, objective truth does exist and it's found in Christ.”

1. **Existence of God:** The existence of God continually answers more questions than any other foundational part of our worldview (e.g., creation, design, morality, beauty)
2. **Absolute Truth:** Jesus's claim [see John 14:6] is not an opinion, but objective truth.
3. **Scripture:** The NT is ... accurate over thousands of years. There are 6000+ copies, widely dispersed, consistent, as early as 130 AD. Growing evidence for OT.
4. **Jesus:** He quotes OT. He makes claims to divinity. He fulfilled OT promises and prophecies. He rose from the dead. 500 witnesses. Resurrection a better explanation than other theories: Stolen body, swoon, changed grave, mass hallucination, not crucified. Resurrection of an individual was not a popular Jewish idea (cf. Dan. 12:1-3). In Jesus are the answers. We can find them. We can know them. We can be certain...

Resources for Further Study: *The Truth Is* and *Certain* by Steve Kozak