

FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE

Devotion | Week 2 Day 2

No Doubt

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do. – James 1:5-8

The batter strolls up to the plate, kicking his feet into the dirt as he settles into the batter's box. Gripping the bat as he takes a few practice swings, he begins to stare down the pitcher trying to detect any motions or reactions which might tip off the oncoming pitch. As the pitcher enters his motion, the batter focuses his attention fully on the pitcher's hand. He strains to see the ball as it slips off the pitcher's fingers. In less than half a second the ball will be crossing the plate, leaving him little time to decide if he should swing. Though the odds are overwhelmingly against him, the batter chooses to swing. He raises his front foot, thrusting his hips as he drags the bat through the hitting zone. With a loud crack, the bat reverses the path of the ball, launching it into the afternoon sky. The pitcher drops his head; unable and unwilling to look at the quickly disappearing baseball. For the briefest of moments, the batter lingers at the plate, watching the ball land in the bleachers before flipping aside his bat and trotting around the bases.

From the moment the ball left the bat, everyone in the stadium knew the ball was gone. Baseball fans might call that a "no-doubter." Not every home run works this way. Some balls hit on a line may not be high enough to clear the fence. Other balls are hit so high into the air that the hitter is left to wonder if it will have enough distance to clear the fence. In each of these cases, the batter must sprint toward first base in anticipation that Running hard out of the box is prudent. If they begin by jogging they might turn an extra base hit into a single or a put out at 2nd base. This is the sort of thing that turns cheers to jeers and gives the manager stress. But if they run and the ball ultimately lands in the seats, they can always slow down for the last half of their trip around the bases. So while players will take home runs any way they can get them, there is a far greater appreciation of the moonshot that leaves people gawking in amazement.

Like baseball, life has only a few "no-doubters." Death and taxes aside, each day provides us with a combination of choices and circumstances that are beyond our control. Many people spend a lifetime looking for sure bets. They pin their hopes on other people, believing fully in their promises only to find they have come up short. Others trust in systems and processes that periodically fail, leaving them scrambling for solutions to their escalating problems. But we as Christians adhere to the words of Hebrews 12:2, "fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." We follow Christ because through Him and His word we find the one thing in life that remains constant: truth.

It is in the word where we learn about God the Father, His Son Jesus, and their plan of salvation given freely to us: by grace through faith. Because this work has been done for us by the One who created and sustains us, we have no reason to doubt. This isn't always an easy thing to do. When you live in a world known for its unreliability it becomes unnatural to trust anything fully. But know that this is what God calls us to do.

So go on – marvel at the majesty of the Lord. Unlike baseball, gawking won't get you hit by a pitch next time you step up to the plate!