



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



“Dealing With Doubt”

Here we are in 2025, and what a blessing it is to begin a new year! 2024 brought its share of challenges, but we made it through, and God’s faithfulness was evident every step of the way. Though the journey left us weary, we

ended the year strong in the Lord. I know that not everyone emerges from difficult seasons with their faith intact, so let’s take a look at why this happens and how it can be avoided.

One thing I’ve observed is that those who struggle the most are often those who are newer in their faith. In the natural world, the young often become the target of predators, and similarly, Satan, the enemy of our souls, often targets new or immature believers. But here’s some good news: just as a young tree grows stronger as it withstands the storms, our faith can grow through every challenge we face in life.

When we’re new in our walk with God, we often expect things to go smoothly and for every prayer to be answered the way we desire. But true faith isn’t about getting everything we ask for—it’s about

trusting God’s wisdom and timing, even when things don’t go as planned. For those more mature in their faith, this is a reality they have accepted. But for new believers, this can be a harsh lesson to learn, and if they don’t learn it, doubt can enter in.

THE DANGERS OF DOUBT

James 1:6 tells us how dangerous doubt can be.

James 1:6 NIV

6 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.**

Doubt, left unchecked, can be incredibly destructive to our spiritual well-being. It can make us question God’s presence, His goodness, and even our salvation. But it’s important to remember: doubt doesn’t have to define us. We can face doubt head-on and allow God to strengthen and mature us through life’s challenges.

One thing remained certain throughout the challenges we faced in 2024: we never doubted God’s faithfulness. This isn’t to boast but to highlight the importance of having a firm foundation built by many years of trusting God through various seasons, even when we could not see the whole picture. So, what can we all do to develop a mature faith that gives us a firm foundation to stand on? I want to share two key things.

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One of the first lessons we learn as we grow in faith is that suffering through life's storms is not something to fear because God uses suffering to refine us. He doesn't cause the suffering, but He uses it. Just as athletes grow stronger through resistance training, our faith becomes stronger as we rely on it during difficult times.

Difficulties don't break us; they build us.

1 Peter 5:10 NLV

10 In his kindness, God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.

And then there is the memory of God's past faithfulness. The Bible urges us to remember how He has worked in our lives.

Deuteronomy 4:9 NIV

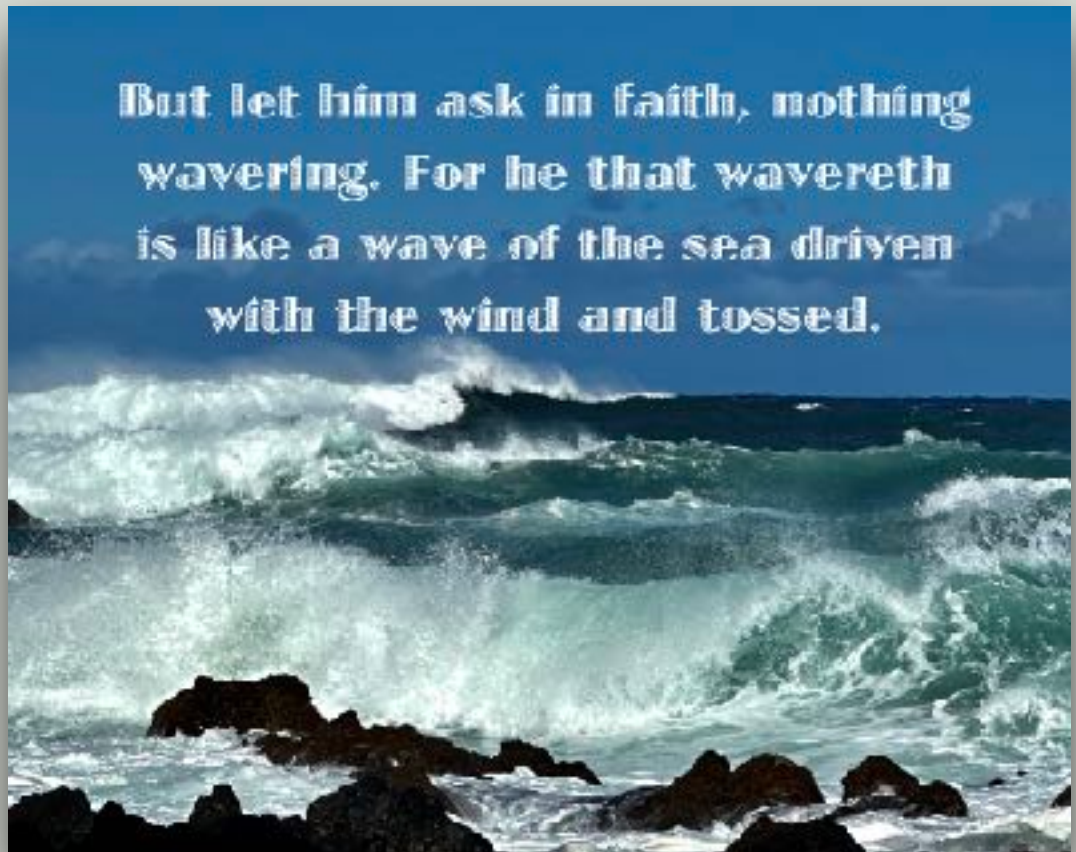
9 Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

When we face new trials, it's easy to forget the countless times God has already come through for us. Looking back on His faithfulness reminds us that He hasn't failed us in the past—and He won't fail us now. We can hold fast to the assurance that

the same God who helped us yesterday will continue to be our strength today.

As we begin 2025, I encourage you to embrace the process of growth that comes with each trial. Faith is not just about getting through the hard times—it's about growing stronger, becoming more resilient, and learning to trust God even when we don't understand. For those who are newer in their faith, I pray that you will lean into God's wisdom, embrace His timing, and remember that every season of life—good or bad—can be a stepping stone toward greater spiritual maturity.

Whatever challenges lie ahead, know that you are never alone. God is with you, and He will be your strength. Let's press forward with hope, knowing that no trial can steal the victory that Christ has already won for us.



AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH