



Living by Faith: with Conviction & amidst Our Doubts

1. How Should We Handle Doubt?

- Are you “in Christ” & walking w/ Him?
- Don’t give in to condemnation or fear
- Examine the Scriptures:
seeking godly counsel & being on guard
- Prayerfully put your confidence in Christ
amidst your doubts & questions

2. Take Luke’s Words to Heart

- Multiple people compiled a narrative of the events
regarding Jesus (v1)
- The gospel was “delivered” by eye witnesses & ministers
of the word (e.g. the apostles) (v2)
- Luke did thorough investigation & wrote an “orderly” account (v3)

- Therefore we may have certainty about the things
we’ve been taught (v4)

3. Trust in the Truth of God’s Word

- The gospel has apostolic authority & a unifying msg
(within the 4 books).
- The gospel was passed on thru reliable oral tradition
& written texts.

Footnotes: 1) Numerous Bible scholars have thoroughly investigated & marveled at the massive undertaking involved in Luke’s writings, where he painstakingly & accurately includes some “32 countries, 54 cities, and 9 Mediterranean islands, not randomly, but in the course of a saga lasting some 30 years and extending from Jerusalem and rippling out eventually all the way to Rome...[along with] some 95 different persons, 62 of which are not mentioned elsewhere in the NT and 27 of which are non-believers” (NT Survey Notes, by Robert Yarborough; see also “The New Testament Documents: are They Reliable” by F.F. Bruce). 2) Luke lived among a people that *embraced an “informal controlled-oral tradition” (devoted to passing on & protecting their history & beliefs orally) in a religious “culture of textuality.” Even though most people in the Judeo-Christian culture of the 1st Century were illiterate, they gave priority to reading & teaching from religious documents like the OT Scriptures and the NT Gospels & letters as they began circulating (cf. Col 4:16). This combination of an informal controlled-oral tradition within a culture of textuality is partially how Luke is able to give us a reliable & orderly account of the life & message of Christ. Therefore we have certainty concerning the things we have been taught (Luke 1:1-4; *Kenneth E. Bailey, Research Professor of Middle Eastern NT Studies; Michael Kruger, President of Reformed Theological Seminary).