

A Faith that Doubts: Tom, John, and Job

Darrell Buchanan, April 18, 2021

More than half of all Christian teens and twentysomethings leave active involvement in church.

- This according to research published in 2011 by David Kinnaman and Aly Hawkins in their book *You Lost Me* ([read an excerpt here](#)).
- This is compounded by the age we live in where skeptical criticism abounds.
- It has been described as “the vortex of deconstruction.”

Deconstruction Defined

- Began as an approach to literature and philosophy but in the 1980s expanded to encompass traditional cultural values, norms, and ideologies.
- For more about deconstruction read this [online article](#) from the Encyclopedia Britannica.

An important part of theological deconstruction is the process of dismantling one’s accepted beliefs..

- The Bible highlights many instances of the faithful breaking from family, community, and the past to follow God’s call.

Differentiation: is learning how we are different from those around us, our upbringing, or our social context.

- To follow Jesus is to leave and become the person God has called us to be in this world.
- The tightrope we walk is to differentiate but still honour where we came from.
- “Kicking the tires doesn’t mean you hate the car.”

Doubts, questions, and critiques of your faith are the same as losing it.

- There is a fundamental difference between doubt and unbelief in Scripture.
- Oswald Chambers: “Doubt is not always a sign that a man is wrong. It may be a sign that he is thinking.”

The goal of any deconstruction of our faith is Jesus Christ and nothing less.

- Getting answers to my questions is not the goal of the spiritual life.
- The goal is living in the presence of God.

Next Week: *How to Deconstruct Wrong Beliefs Without Tearing Down Your Faith*

BACK