

Faith and Doubt

Session 5: Faith and Doubt

- Implications for you and me

What can we learn
from the challenges of
Faith and Doubt?

Thomas

THOMAS IS LIKE US

Fine when Jesus is with us and obvious
Not happy when having to go alone
Needs certainty when Jesus is away

Strong faith

Wavering faith

Faith and doubt

Why does God allow doubt?

It's a function of free
will/choice

It develops a
relationship

It's a function of free
will/choice

God

Relationship

Certainty

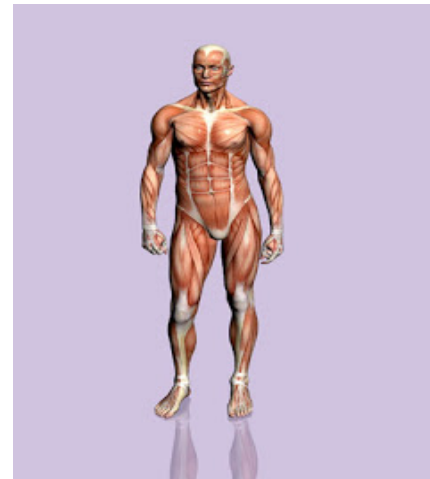


It's a function of free
will/choice

God

Relationship

Choose

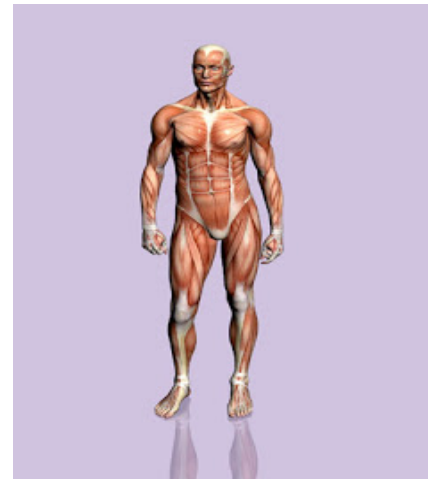


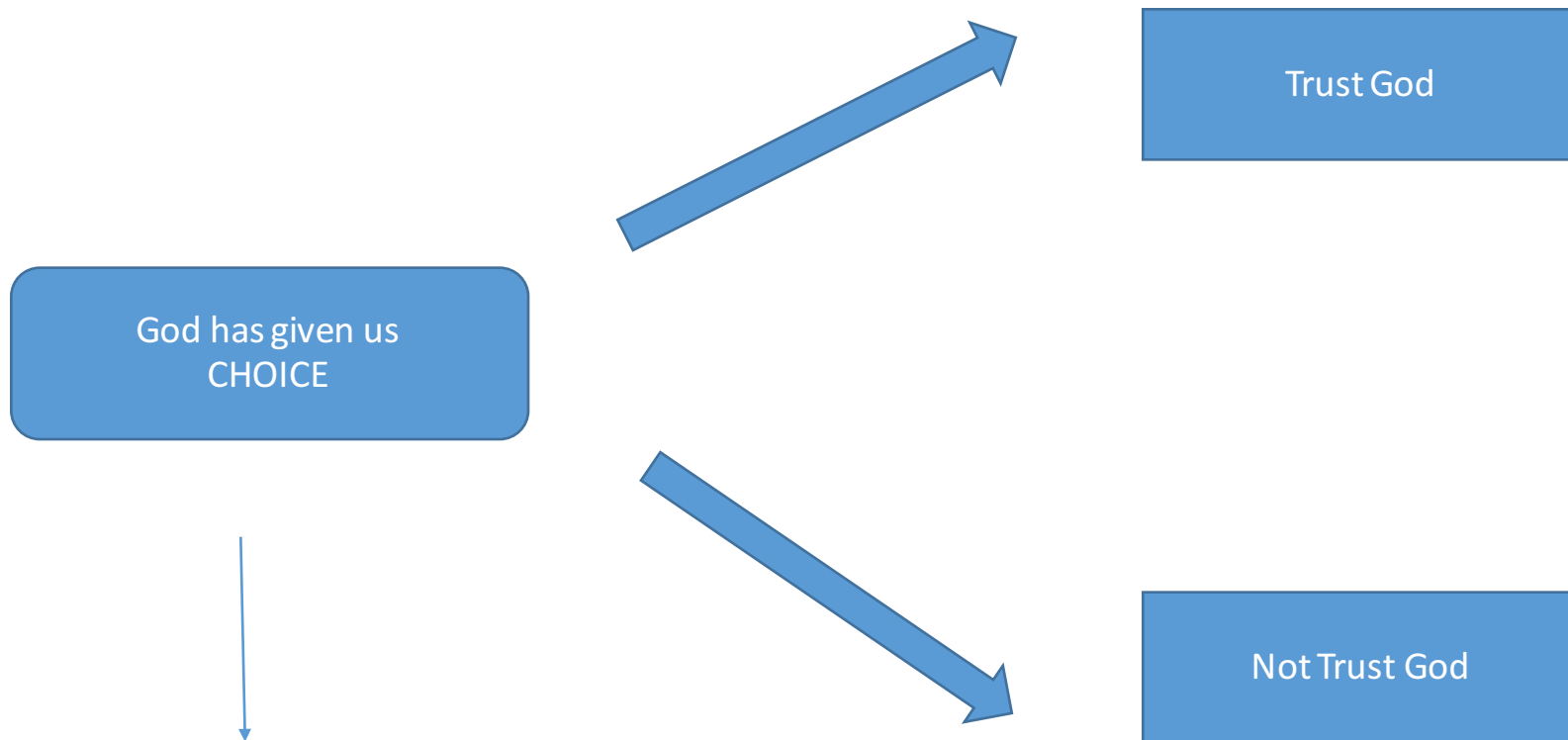
It's a function of free
will/choice

God

Relationship

Risk





An amazing gift

I want

certainty

God exists/ God's character

Faith/trust

God wants

Uncertainty/doubt

waiting

God's
silence

I want

certainty

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Testing
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Why does God allow doubt?

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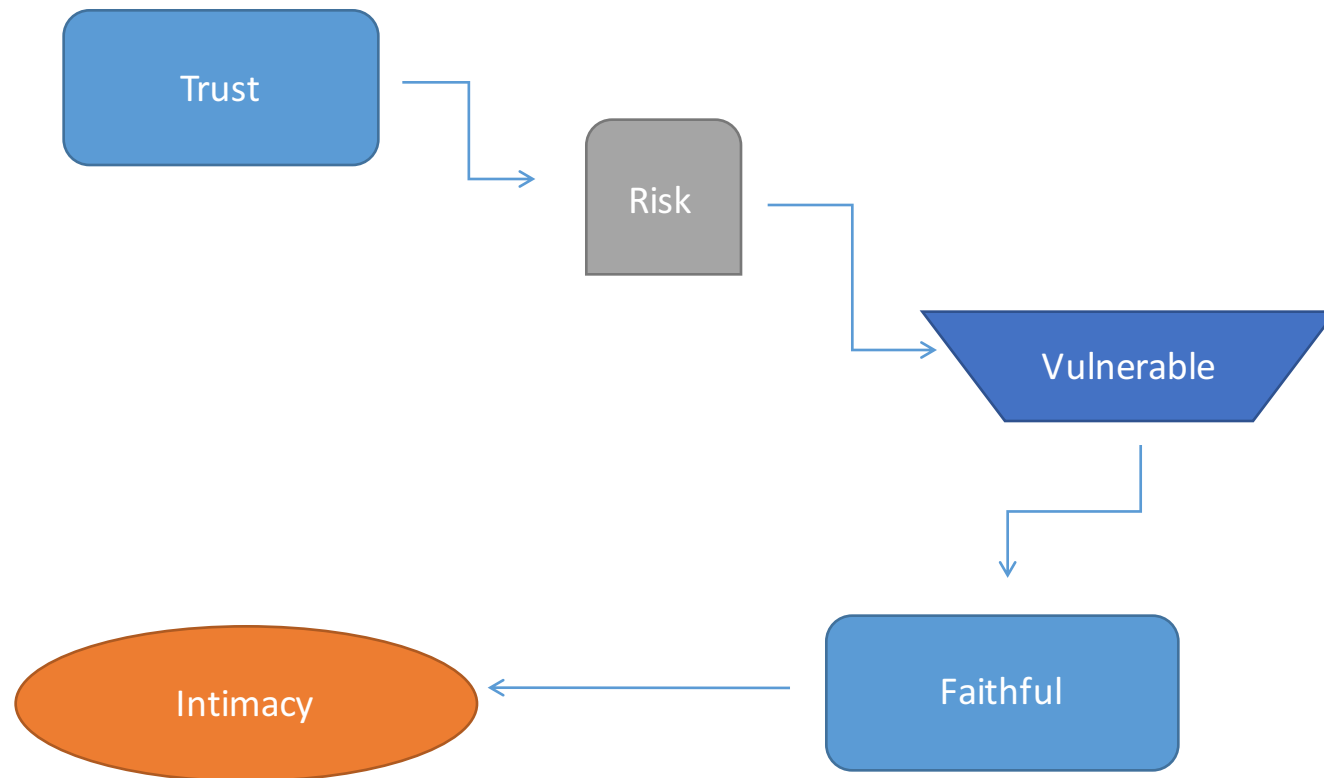


To build trust

Doubt develops a
relationship



Relationship dynamic





TRUST



FAITHFUL

MARRIAGE

TRAPEZE

MAN and GOD

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Deut 31 v 16

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

Heb 13 v 15



So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41 v 10

Trusting in God results in a change to our natural tendencies

Cast your bread upon the waters,
For you will find it after many days.

Ecc 11 v 1



God encourages
risk?

As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

..

John 15.



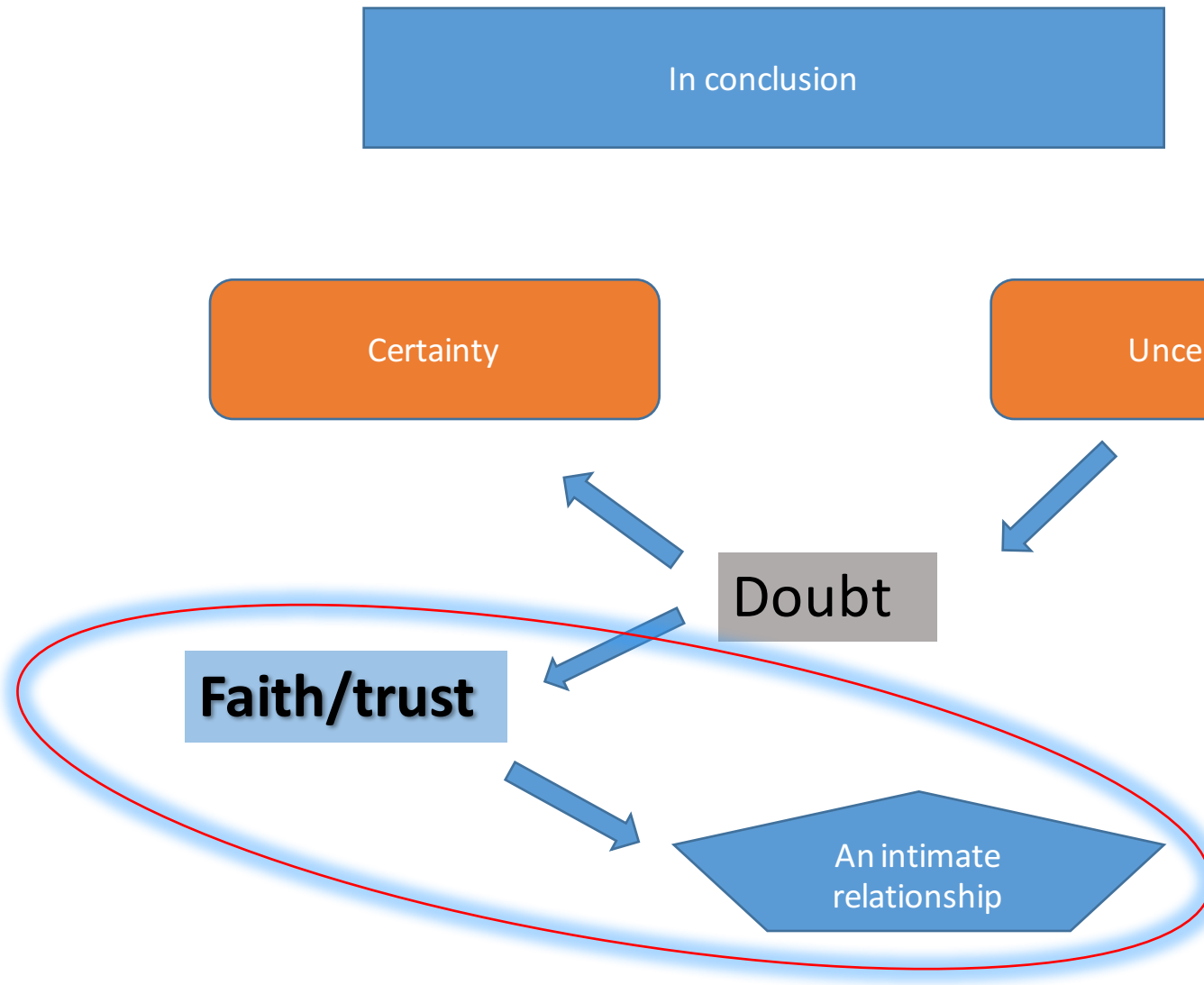
God wants to be
active in our lives

Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;

Prov 3 v 5



God encourages
open mindedness



In conclusion

Faith/trust

An intimate
relationship

God "encouraging"
uncertainty

God "encouraging"
waiting

Development of
hope

Prayer, "yes",
"no", "wait"

God "encouraging" risk
taking

God "encouraging"
change

God's greatest desire

To have an intimate relationship with
you and me and for
His greatest invention to fulfil the purpose
for which it was made



Faith and Doubt