

## Listening to God

We are not always certain that God is with us. At times, God calls us to live in this world without experiencing the divine presence, often discerning God's nearness only as we look back. At other times, God seems absent in order that our faith may be tested. Through such struggle, we mature in faith. God may also chasten and strengthen us through the hard circumstances of life.

Questioning may be a sign of growth. It may also be a sign of disobedience: We must be honest with ourselves. Since we are to love God with our minds, as well as our hearts, the working through of doubt is part of our growth in faith. The church includes many who struggle with doubt. Jesus accepted the man who prayed: *"Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief."*

Though the strength of our faith may vary and in many ways be assailed and weakened, yet we may find assurance in Christ through confidence in his word, the sacraments of his church, and the work of his Spirit.

*~ taken from "Living Faith: A Statement of Christian Belief" published by the Doctrine Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. ~*