**McLaren *Faith after Doubt***

**Questions for Chapter 1: Doubt as Loss (Also consult p. 12)**

Walker (p. 3) and McLaren (p. 6) were raised in Fundamentalist churches. How would you define Christian Fundamentalism?

What are the things that induce people to doubt (pp. 5, 6, 7), and what are the things people doubt about (pp. 4, 7, 10, 18)? Why do people doubt in secret?

Why it is so traumatic ̶ existentially, socially and in regard to god ̶ to doubt the Christian worldview and its beliefs (pp. 8-11)?

**Questions for Chapter 2: Doubt as Loneliness (Also consult p. 23)**

In this chapter, McLaren introduces an idea he will often use in the book. He talks about three functions of the brain:

* the instinctive-survival function
* the intuitive-belonging function
* the intellectual-meaning function

How do these three functions interact with each other in relation to doubt (pp. 15-19)?

**Note:** To the above functions, Humberto would like to add the function of rational thought (which recognizes that metaphors are not to be taken literally) versus magic thinking (which takes metaphors literally). Are the following statements literal?

These are *thorny* questions.

Her *hands were tied* by the council, so she let personnel go.

Electing a woman as bishop was a *groundbreaking* event.

His actions won’t pass the *smell* test.

What are some social pressures forcing people to keep the faith (pp. 20-22), and what are the difficulties in trying to sort out the different types of beliefs (p. 21)?

**Questions for Chapter 3: Doubt as Crisis (Also consult p. 30)**

What are the things that induce people to doubt (p. 25) and what are the things people doubt about (p. 25)?

What are the existential questions McLaren raises regarding the Christian “conceptual universe” (pp. 26-27)?

What kind of problems are generated when we are not honest (authentic, true), and what social pressures prevent us from recognizing our crisis of faith (pp. 28-29)?

McLaren uses the strong metaphor of *burning down* the house to express the danger of piling doubts without finding resolve (p. 29). Have you felt this way?

**Questions for Chapter 4: Doubt as Doorway (Also consult p. 30)**

What are the promises of the Christian worldview (pp. 31-32)? In responding to this question, consider the three following metaphors: God’s view on every important subject, fortress, bricks.

What was the “one brick” problem for Sam (p. 33), and what were the consequences resulting from it (pp. 34-35)?

Reflect on the metaphor of the fortress that turns into a prison, and on all the hesitation, fear and loss involved in leaving the prison (pp. 36-37).

The road-metaphor ends replacing the fortress-metaphor. What is involved in this replacement regarding faith and doubt (pp. 38-39)? What do you think of the fact that Sam left the church and went “into the adventure of life.” (p. 40)?