

Overcoming Doubt

November 12, 2017

John 20:24-31

Satan had done all he could to destroy Jesus Christ the Messiah.

Thomas knew that Christ was dead and buried. He could not believe Jesus was alive. Thomas overcame his doubt and is known today in India as "Believing Thomas".

You, too, can overcome doubt. Consider the causes of doubt, some truths about doubt, and the cure for doubt.

1. Some Scriptural Causes Of Doubt Experience:

- a. **Satan roaring** - The Bible tells us that Simon Peter began to sink into the water he was walking on when the winds became boisterous.
- b. **Lack of understanding** - We are like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. You may not know how to be saved and were never taught.
- c. **Worried about basic needs.**
- d. **A lack of prayer and fasting.**
- e. **When we are not in the fellowship of the Church.**

"Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when he had so said, he showed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

John 20:19-21

- f. **Sin and disobedience cause doubt.**
- g. **Looking for a feeling.**
- h. **Spiritual growth.**

2. Some Truths About Doubt:

- a. **Doubt can happen to anyone.**

"Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellow disciples, let us also go, that we may die with Him."

John 11:16

- b. **A Christian may doubt and still be saved.**

He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

I John 5:12-13

- c. **God deals with His children through a doubting EXPERIENCE.**
- d. **You can lose assurance and regain it. (Never lose relationship)**
- e. **You can have a false assurance EXPERIENCE.**
- f. **Doubt is basically the sin of unbelief.**

3. The Cure (The Three Tests Of Life Experience):

a. The First Test (The Past Test)

In John 20:25b Thomas says, "*Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe.*"

b. The Second Test (Present Experience Test)

The third area of testing has to do with your commitment to Christ and your knowledge of who He is. "*Thomas answered and said, My Lord and My God.*"

Is Jesus Christ God to you? Is Jesus your Master? If He is not, then you are not saved.

c. The Final Test (Future Experience Test)

There is a fountain filled with Blood
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains.

The chorus ran:

I do believe, I will believe,
That Jesus died for me,
That on the Cross He shed His Blood
From sin to set me free.