

RENEWED FAITH

John 20:24-31

- *"Thomas was not with the others when Jesus came. They told him, 'We have seen the Lord!' But he replied, 'I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in His hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in His side.'"* (John 20:24-25)
- **Doubt is something everyone struggles with at times, especially times of crisis.**
- ***What doubts have I had about Jesus?***
- **Doubt keeps us discouraged and defeated and keeps us from experiencing the life Jesus offers to us (John 3:16, 10:10).**
- ***Why do we struggle at times with Doubt, and what can we do to Renew our Faith?***

Renewing Our Faith Requires:

UNDERSTANDING THE SOURCES FOR OUR DOUBTS

- **Doubt Can Result From *Experiencing Life's Problems* (John 18:1 – 19:42)**
    - **Problems are a part of every person's life, but sometimes we have painful experiences that cause us to doubt the character or care of the Lord.**
    - **Our problems can be caused by Satan, evil people, or by ourselves.**
    - **One of life's challenges is learning how God can transform our greatest troubles into testimonies of triumph and transformation.**
    - *"God comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us."* (2 Corinthians 1:4)

    - **The Lord wants to turn our greatest hurts into ministries that bring help, hope and healing to others.**
- **Doubt Can Result From *Disconnecting From The Lord's People***
    - *"Thomas...was not with the others when Jesus came."* (John 20:24)
    - **Worshiping and fellowshipping with Christians helps us to encounter the Lord and strengthen our faith.**
    - *"Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another..."* (Hebrews 10:23-25)
    - **Hanging with the wrong people causes us to live doubt-filled, defeated lives.**
    - *"I am a friend to anyone who fears You - anyone who obeys Your commandments."* (Psalm 119:63)
- **Doubt Can Result From *Living With A Negative Perspective.***
    - *"They told Thomas, 'We have seen the Lord!' But he replied, 'I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in His hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in His side.'"* (John 20:25)
    - **Sometimes we live by what we see, think or feel rather than by the principles and promises of God's Word.**
    - *"It is through faith that a righteous person has life."* (Romans 1:17)
- ***What are some things that have caused me to doubt the Lord's presence, purposes, plans and power for my life?***

Renewing Our Faith Requires:

TAKING <u>STEPS</u> TO HELP US BELIEVE

- **We Build Up Our Faith By *Studying God's Word*.**
    - *"The other disciple also went in, and he saw and believed - for until then they hadn't realized the Scriptures said He would rise from the dead."* (John 20:8-9)
    - **Jesus' resurrection was promised by Old Testament Prophets (Luke 24:44-46) and by Jesus (John 10:17-21; Matthew 12:39-40, 16:21).**
    - **Doubt is often a result of failing to hear, read and believe God's Word.**
    - *"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."* (Romans 10:17)
    - **We can learn God's Word by reading it daily and by studying it with other Christians in *Life Groups,* Worship Services and other means.**

    - **Regularly reviewing the principles and promises found in God's Word helps us overcome doubt in our lives.**
    - *"The Lord always keeps His promises."* (Psalm 145:13)
- **We Build Up Our Faith By *Worshipping With God's People.***
    - *"Thomas was not with the others when Jesus came."* (John 20:24)
    - **We can experience the Lord's presence by worshiping Him weekly in *Life Groups* and worship services.**
    - Jesus – *"Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."* (Matthew 18:20)
- **We Build Up Our Faith By *Meeting With God's Son.***
    - *"The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them...He said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Put your hand into the wound in My side.'"* (John 20:26-27)
    - **We can experience the Lord's presence by praying to Him daily.**
    - Jesus - *"Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense His grace."* (Matthew 6:6 Msg)
- **Interacting with the Lord, His people and His Word brings peace, joy and faith to our lives (John 20:19-27).**

Renewing Our Faith Requires:

TRUSTING OUR <u>SAVIOR</u> COMPLETELY

- *"Then He said to Thomas,...'Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!' 'My Lord and my God!' Thomas exclaimed."* (John 20:27-28)
- ***What keeps me from fully believing in Jesus' power and promises?***
- *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take."* (Proverbs 3:5-6)
- **Trusting in Jesus brings us strength and success.**
- *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* (Philippians 4:13)

- *"Then Jesus told him, 'You believe because you have seen Me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing Me."* (John 20:29)
- **Exchanging *Doubt* for *Faith* will facilitate our being *Blessed* by the Lord.**
- Thomas to Jesus – *"My Lord and my God."* (John 20:28)
- ***What steps do I need to take to make Jesus absolute Lord of my life?***