

Dealing With Doubts!

Most of us are plagued with secret doubts at times.

Past failures shake our confidence in being able to undertake new ventures.

Failure to look beyond our natural abilities and resources breeds doubt.

Even great servants of the Creator God have doubts at times.

John the Baptist had spent his entire life as a dedicated servant of the Creator God.

John's entire ministry was preparing people for the coming of Jesus Christ.

John recognised Jesus Christ as the "*Lamb of God*" after he had supernaturally told what to look for, [John 1:29-36].

When Herod imprisoned John, he had "*second thoughts*" about his life's work.

We must remember that John was human like us.

Matthew 11:2-3 [New King James] "*And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?'*"

This request was as much for John's disciples as for John himself, for they were a part of the "*fruits*" of his life work.

Matthew 11:4-12 [New King James] "*Jesus answered and said to them, 'Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.' As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. For this is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You. Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.'*"

Jesus Christ knew John's human emotions, answered John with an encouraging and uplifting report.

All of John's doubt must have melted away after hearing that response from Jesus Christ.

Doubts come from Satan –

Most people have doubts about the existence of the Creator God, and the Christian Bible being His inspired word.

Satan is the one who plants such doubts in the minds of people.

Satan is behind the human theory of evolution that tries to explain the world we live in without a Creator God.

[Please download and study our articles on evolution under the sub-heading '*Evolution – The Devolution of*'.]

Unresolved doubts condemn us to a life of mediocrity without an assured goal in life.

The best way to come to grips with doubts is to learn from one who has been there, Thomas.

An examination of the apostle Thomas' experience, [John 20:19-31] reveals four principles to escape the strong hold of doubt.

We must honestly admit our doubts –

Thomas did this openly.

John 20:24-25 [New King James] *“Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ So he said to them, ‘Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.’”*

If we ever hope to deal with doubts, we must be willing to honestly admit that we do not believe.

Thomas was **not** willing to live out his life pretending to believe something he did not believe.

Thomas could **not** smile and proclaim, *“Jesus Christ is risen”* while not believing it in his heart and mind.

We must rely on the fellowship and association of other believers –

Where was Thomas when Jesus Christ appeared to the 10 apostles?

What Thomas feared most had happened, Jesus Christ had been crucified, but instead of remaining with the other apostles, he apparently sought refuge in isolation.

We all need fellowship of other believers to strengthen our faith.

Isolation breeds and nourishes doubt, [Hebrews 10:23-25], the longer we remain in isolation, the greater our doubts become.

We need to daily remember God's promises –

Jesus Christ frequently spoke of His death to His disciples, but He always affirmed that He would rise again back to life.

In his personal grief, Thomas forgot the wonderful promise of the resurrection and was then unable to believe it when it actually happened.

Many doubts arise because we have either forgotten or have **not** understood God's promises about our problems and trials.

Philippians 4:11-13 [New King James] *“Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

God's Word, the Christian Bible, reminds us that when we look to God for help nothing is impossible.

We need to bring our doubts directly to the Creator God –

Thomas wanted a personal audience with Jesus Christ.

He had the 10 apostles declare the resurrection, but was unwilling to accept their words, without actually seeing Jesus Christ as they had.

For a long week Thomas wallowed in his doubt, then what he asked for happened.

John 20:26-27 [New King James] *“And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, ‘Peace to you!’ Then He said to Thomas, ‘Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.’”*

Jesus Christ in His loving way presented Himself to Thomas and invited His personal examination.

We have no record of Thomas accepting the invitation but somehow I think that he did.

John 20:28 [New King James] *“And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’”*

These words are of a disciple who now had no doubts.

Jesus Christ dealt tenderly with Thomas.

Jesus Christ then used this situation to teach all Christians who have doubts like Thomas a special lesson.

John 20:29-31 [New King James] *“Jesus said to him, ‘Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”*

We must believe without physical sight of the risen Jesus Christ, but this does not mean we cannot have a believing relationship with Him.

[Please download and study the many articles on our relationship with our Saviour Jesus Christ on this website under the heading ‘Jesus Christ’.]