



## Believe - Luke 24:36-53

1. In what ways have you seen the degrading of the word "believe" in our culture and its personal uses?
2. As the disciples of Jesus were gathered, they discussed the fact that several of them had now had encounters with the risen Jesus, and yet they were startled and in disbelief when Jesus then appeared to them in the room. How is it that we, like these disciples, can have good evidence to believe yet still be skeptical?
3. We see in this section of scripture that although these disciples were skeptical, Jesus didn't just leave the room out of frustration, but he instead showed them more evidence that they may believe and be sure. Knowing this heart of Jesus, how should we approach situations where we are skeptical about his promises?
4. In his book *Gospel Allegiance*, Dr. Matthew Bates concludes that "believe" and "faith" aren't the best words to describe what is being said when they are used in scripture. Instead, he says, the correct word to use in our context is "allegiance" or in some cases "loyalty." What do these words stir up in your heart? What thoughts do they stir up in your mind that differ from belief and faith?
5. Our Response to the Gospel should be allegiance alone. Allegiance is expressed in repentance, trusting loyalty, and baptism. Repentance from sins means revoking other allegiances to live in the way Jesus commands. Saving faith is loyalty to Jesus as the forgiving king and includes good deeds done through the Holy Spirit's power. Baptism embodies allegiance. How does your life reflect allegiance?