

13 Disciples



Lessons in
following Christ


13 Disciples



**Discipleship Lessons from
Thomas the doubter**



**DOUBT IS NOT THE
OPPOSITE OF FAITH; IT
IS ONE ELEMENT OF
FAITH.**

A young man with short brown hair is shown in profile, looking towards the left. He is wearing a light blue t-shirt. The background is a soft-focus landscape of rolling hills or mountains under a sky with light, wispy clouds, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall color palette is muted and naturalistic.

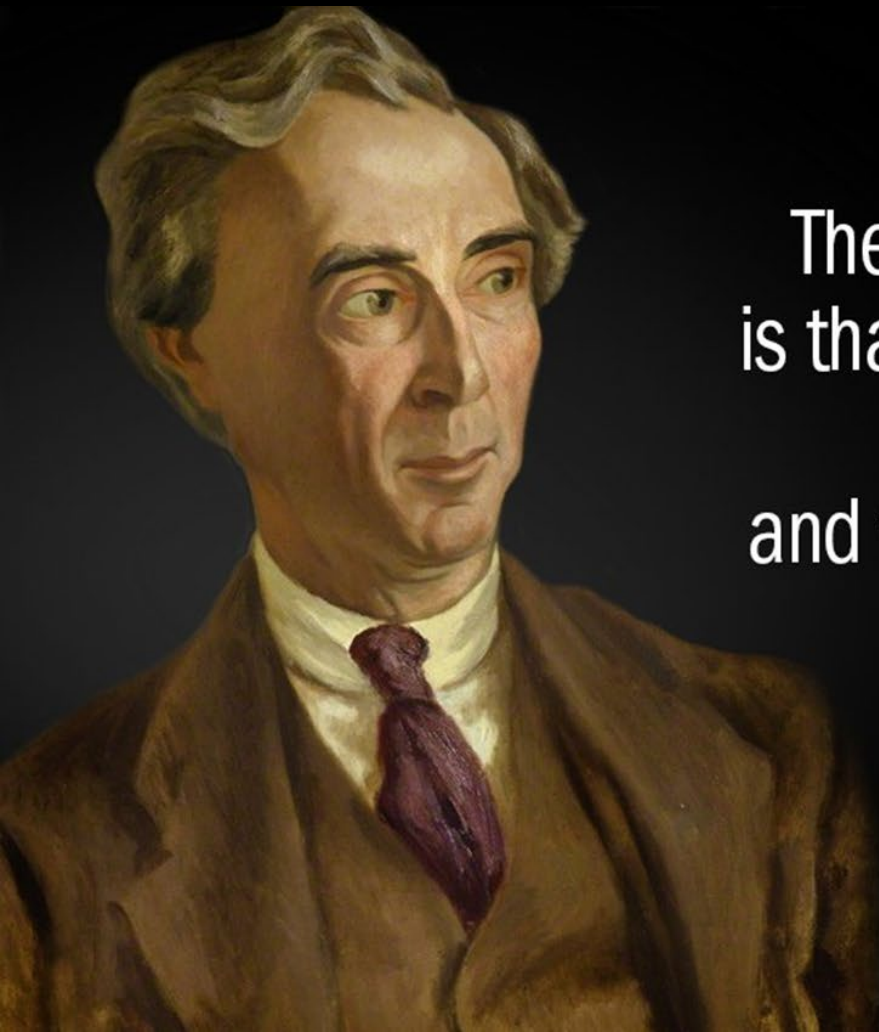
It is better to be
ignorant for a few
minutes and ask
questions rather than
not ask a question at all
and be ignorant forever.

www.BecomingChristians.com

FOOL ME ONCE
SHAME ON YOU
FOOL ME TWICE
SHAME ON ME
— **FOOL ME** —
THREE TIMES
AND THEY 'LL NEVER FIND YOUR BODY

**If we begin with certainties,
we shall end in doubts; but
if we begin with doubts,
and are patient in them, we
shall end in certainties.**





The whole problem with the world
is that **fools and fanatics** are always
so **certain of themselves,**
and **wiser people** so full of doubts.

– *Bertrand Russell*

Doubting Thomas?

- **John 11:16 Therefore Thomas, who was called Didymus, (the twin), 20:24, 21:2**
- **What was the point, calling him a twin?**
- **Thomas was not the only doubter!**



ALL I'M SAYING IS WE DON'T
CALL PETER "DENYING PETER"
OR MARK "RAN AWAY NAKED
MARK." WHY SHOULD I BE
SADDLED WITH THIS TITLE?



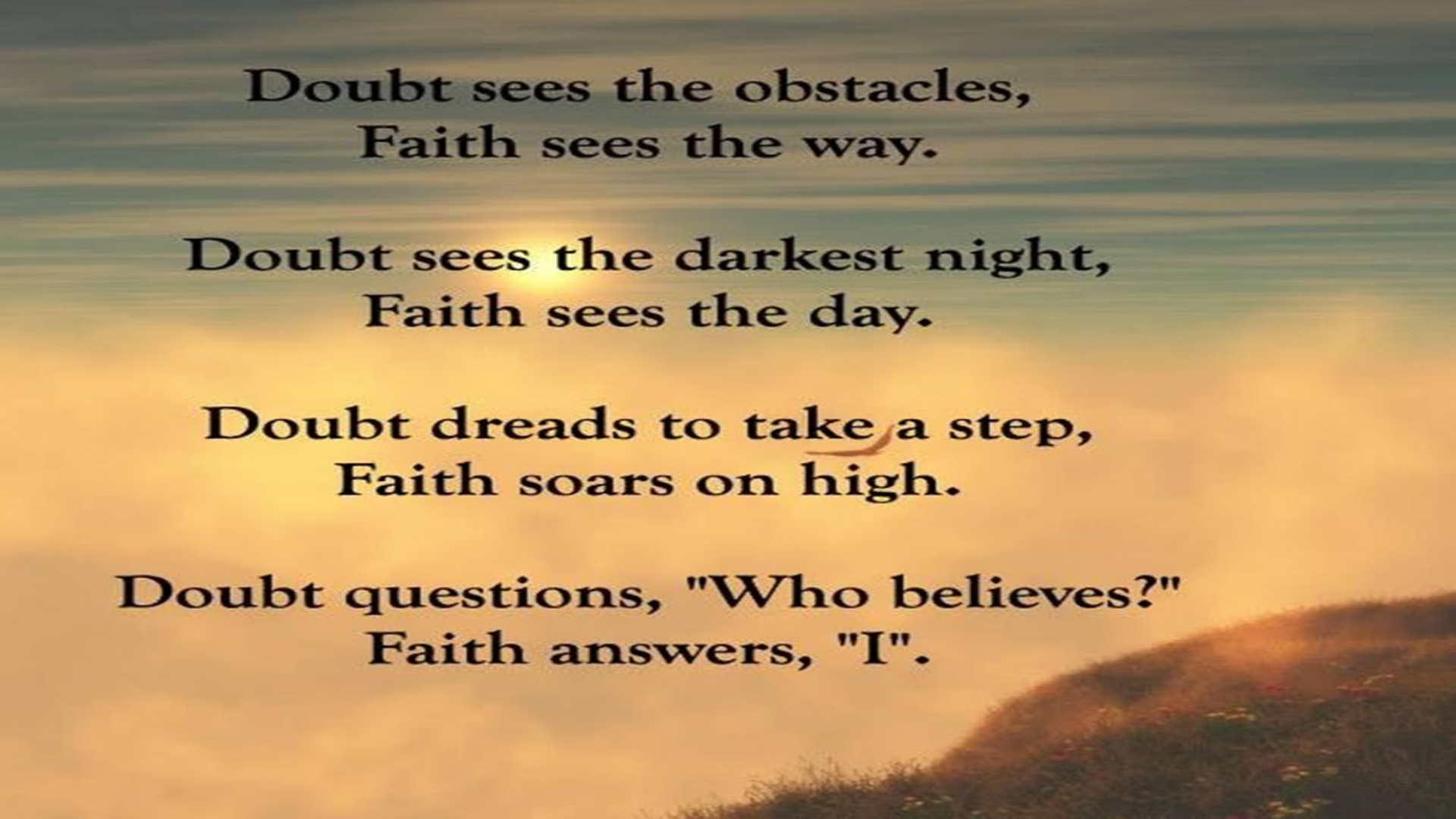
I SEE YOUR
POINT, THOMAS.
BUT REALLY, IT'S
TIME TO MOVE
ON.

Joseph
Hamis
2010

3 key passages on Thomas

- **John 11:16 Lazarus' death**
- **John 14:5 Jesus' impending death**
- **John 20 Thomas' unbelief**





Doubt sees the obstacles,
Faith sees the way.

Doubt sees the darkest night,
Faith sees the day.

Doubt dreads to take a step,
Faith soars on high.

Doubt questions, "Who believes?"
Faith answers, "I".

Why do we doubt?

- We've been fooled or wrong before
- We misunderstood Gods will



Why do we doubt?

- We don't trust our own judgements
- We were misled by our own hearts



**Doubt kills more dreams
than failure ever will.**

Suzy Kassem

We have looked at and touched

- Luke 24:21 “were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel”
- 25 “You foolish men and slow of heart to believe”

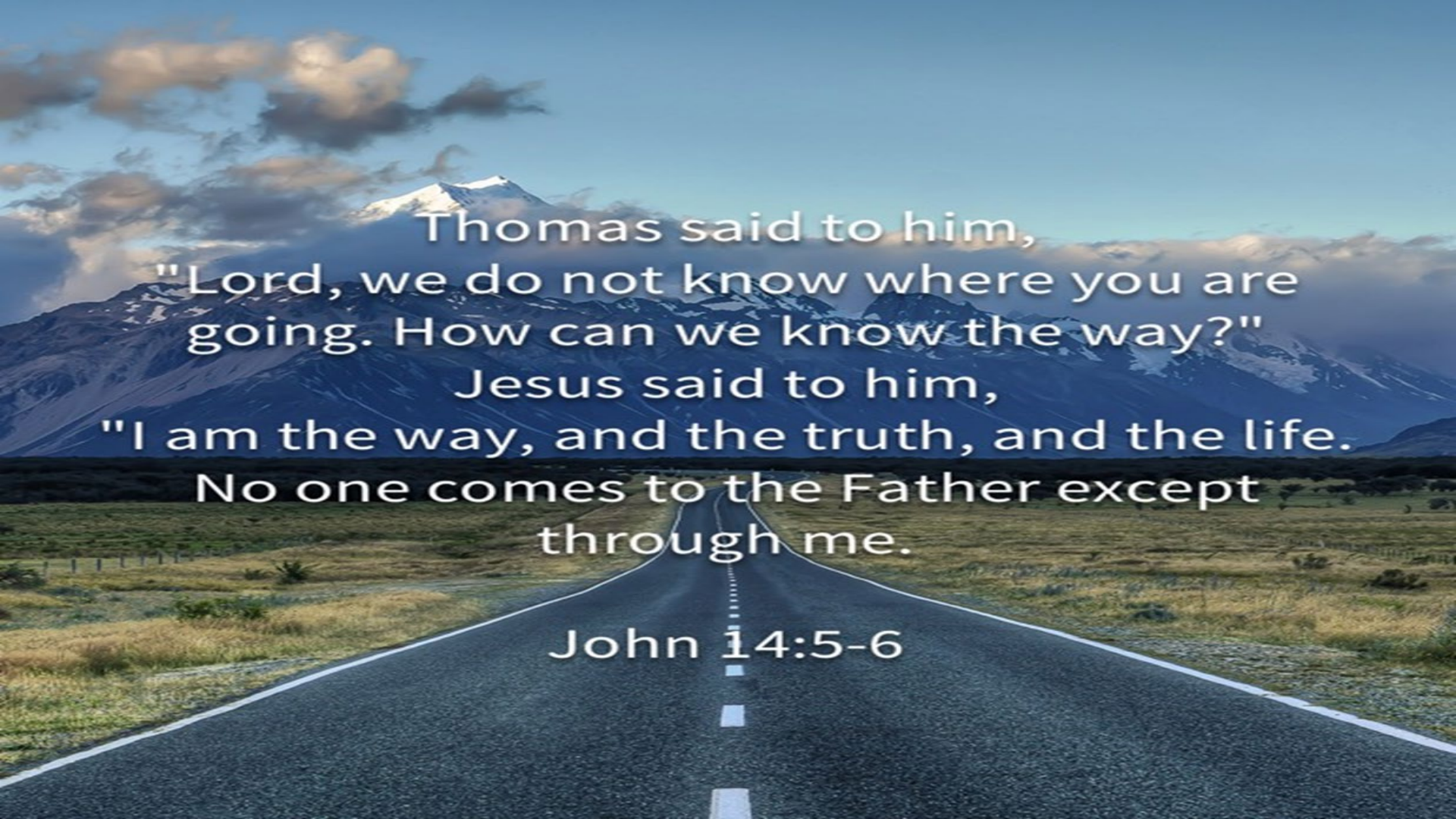




John 11:16 Lazarus' death

- Missed Jesus' point at least 4x
- “Let's also go, so that we may die with Him!” (courageous loyalty)
- Jesus was “Glad”, “Wept”





Thomas said to him,
"Lord, we do not know where you are
going. How can we know the way?"
Jesus said to him,
"I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except
through me.

John 14:5-6

John 14:5 Jesus' impending death

- John 14:1 “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.”
- Thomas repeats Peter's question!



**I AM
THE WAY,
THE TRUTH
AND
THE LIFE**

“Simon Peter asked him, ‘Lord, where are you going?’ Jesus replied, ‘Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.’ Peter asked, ‘Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.’

John 13:36-37

“Unless I see . . . I will not believe.”

- **FOMO, Thomas missed out! But why?**
- **Jesus showed the 10 his hands / side**
- **A lack of faith = lack of peace**





THOMAS DECLARES.

“Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not Believe.”

JOHN 20:25

How do we nurture faith

- Immerse yourself in God's word, use it!
- Rightly divide the word of truth



How do we nurture faith

- Humbly honor our Savior, motives
- Trust God's heart, not yours



Taking up the Shield of Faith
to extinguish ALL the flaming
arrows of the evil one.

Eph. 6:16



“Peace be to you”

- Jesus quoted scripture against Satan!!
- Thomas fell to his knees and believed!
- He surrendered to Him as Lord / God!







A few quick facts on the apostle

Thomas

P J J A P B M **T** J S T J



Didymus (the twin)

Like Simon "Peter" and the "sons of Thunder," Thomas has a nickname: Didymus, which is Greek for "twin."



Thomas is mentioned in every gospel and Acts, but he only speaks in the Gospel of John.



Thomas is brave: he persuades the others to follow Jesus, even if they die with Him.
(Jn 11:16)



However, Thomas doesn't know where Jesus is going (before the cross), or the way to follow.
(Jn 14:5)

We don't know Thomas' former occupation, but we do see him fishing with some of the other fishermen after Jesus' resurrection. (Jn 21:2-3)



The original "Doubting Thomas"



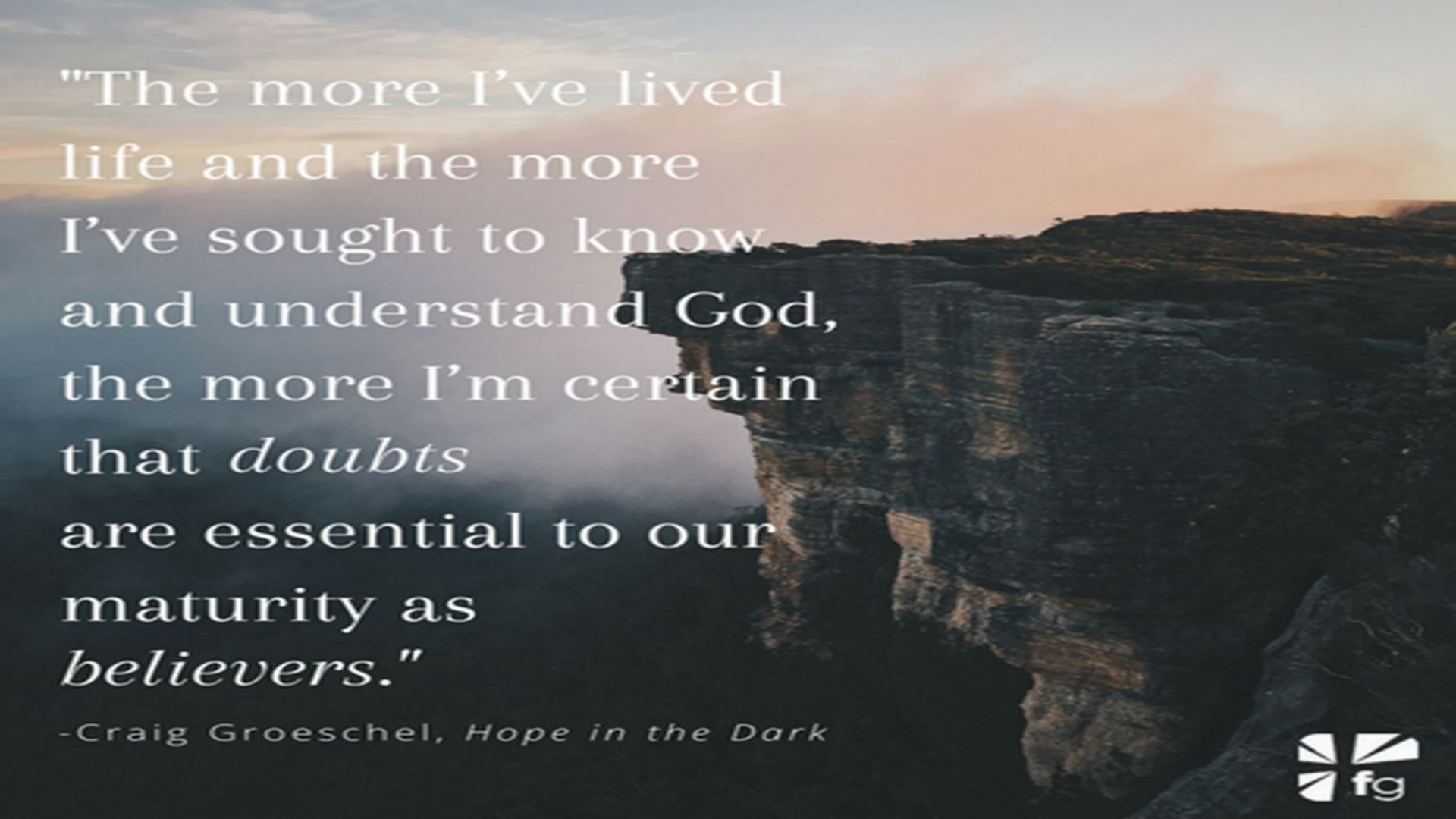
Thomas refuses to believe Jesus has risen until he sees proof (Jn 20:25). To be fair, Thomas isn't the only disciple to doubt the news at first (Mt 28:17; Mk 16:11; Lk 24:38).



He doesn't doubt forever, though. Jesus later appears to Thomas, and he exclaims, "My Lord and my God!" (Jn 20:28).



According to tradition, Thomas takes the gospel to India, where he is martyred for his faith: run through by spears. The man who believed after seeing Jesus' wounds was wounded in the same way for his faith.



"The more I've lived
life and the more
I've sought to know
and understand God,
the more I'm certain
that *doubts*
are essential to our
maturity as
believers."

-Craig Groeschel, *Hope in the Dark*






*Beleif is not enough
No matter how much you have.*

**“Doubt your doubts
before you
doubt your faith.”**

–President Dieter F. Uchtdorf

A close-up portrait of William Shakespeare, showing his face and a white ruff collar. He has a mustache and a goatee. The background is dark.

Our doubts are
traitors and
make us lose
the good we oft
might win by
fearing to
attempt.

William Shakespeare

www.quote-coyote.com





THOMAS

JOHN 20:19-31