

The background is a dark, textured brown wall. In the foreground, the curved, black leather back of a chair is visible, partially obscuring the bottom of the text.

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Part 4: Why Do You Doubt?



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"Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?"

Luke 24:38

3 Admirable Traits of Thomas

1. When Thomas saw what should be done nothing held him back from doing it.

So when he heard that Lazarus was sick,... he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back? he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. Then Thomas said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

John 11:6-16 (NIV Condensed)

2. When Thomas saw what should be done he was willing to ask how to do it.

"Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" John 14:5

3. When Thomas saw what he had to believe, he wanted to prove it, and when he did, he had no doubts.

"Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe" John 20:25



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3 Lessons From Thomas' Bout With Doubt

1. He was **HONEST** about his doubt.

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "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 20:24-25

Doubt is not the end of faith but often the beginning

2. He didn't allow doubt to destroy his **RELATIONSHIPS**

"A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then (Jesus) said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." John 20:26-27

3. He recognized and **EMBRACED** where the evidence took him.

"Thomas answered and said unto Him, My Lord and my God." John 20:25

1. Of His **DIETY**. "My God."

2. Of His **AUTHORITY** over him. "My Lord."

3. Of his **PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP** to Him.

"My Lord and My God."



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REACH GUIDE

Main Idea:

Doubt is not the end of real faith, but often the beginning.

Key Questions:

- *What doubts about God do you struggle with?*
- *Think of a time when you strengthened your faith as a result of pushing through some honest doubts.*
- *What will you do today to overcome your doubts and grow your faith in Jesus?*
- *What do you think are some of the things that cause your doubts?*
- *How would you honestly evaluate the level of faith you currently have in God? Where is your faith strong and where might it be weak?*

Next Steps:

What's one thing you'll commit to do on a regular basis that will help you grow your faith over time?



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DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Take steps to overcome your doubts and grow your faith in Jesus by reading and meditating over the following Bible passages this week.

Day 1: *Luke 24:1-12*

Day 2: *Luke 24:13-35*

Day 3: *Luke 24:36-49*

Day 4: *John 20:1-18*

Day 5: *John 20:19-29*

Day 6: *Proverbs 3:5-8*

Day 7: *Matthew 21:18-22*