

DEALING WITH DOUBT

Pastor Brett Capaci

September 5, 2021

"But Thomas (called "Twin"), one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples were telling him, 'We've seen the Lord!' But he said to them, 'If I don't see the mark of the nails in his hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe.' A week later his disciples were indoors again, and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and look at my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Don't be faithless, but believe.' Thomas responded to him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.'"

—(*John 20:24-29*) (CSB)

"Then he said to Thomas, Put your finger here and look at my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Don't be faithless, but believe." Thomas responded to him, "My Lord and my God!"

—(*John 20:27-28*) (CSB)

"For more than a week I was close to the gates of death and hell. I trembled in all my members. Christ was wholly lost. I was shaken by desperation and blasphemy against God!"

—(*Martin Luther - German Christian theologian and reformer*)

"Now that I am a Christian, I do have moods in which the whole thing looks very improbable."

—(*C.S. Lewis - 20th Century Christian writer and theologian*)

1. Doubt is not the opposite of faith.

2. Doubt is not unforgivable.

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3. *Doubt is not always bad.*

"Test everything that is said to be sure it is true, and if it is, then accept it."

—(1 Thessalonians 5:21) (TLB)

4. *Find the root of your doubt.*

"I have tried hard to find you—don't let me wander from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I praise you, O Lord; teach me your decrees. I have recited aloud all the regulations you have given us. I have rejoiced in your laws as much as in riches. I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways. I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word."

—(Psalm 119:10-16) (NLT)

5. *Be honest about your doubts.*