

Week #5: What do I do with my doubts?

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Matthew 22:36-39 (NIV)

_____ is not the _____ of faith. It can be the _____ to _____ faith.

All of the eleven were present with the exception of Thomas. He heard the accounts of each brother's interaction with the Lord.

The Other Disciples: We have seen the Lord!

Thomas: Until I see His hands, feel the wounds of the nails, and put my hand to His side, I won't believe what you are saying.

Eight days later, they gathered again behind locked doors; and Jesus reappeared. This time Thomas was with them.

Jesus: May each one of you be at peace.

He drew close to Thomas.

Jesus: Reach out and touch Me. See the punctures in My hands; reach out your hand, and put it to My side; leave behind your faithlessness, and believe.

John 20:24-27 (VOICE)

When you wrestle _____ God, wrestle _____ God.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 14:1-6 (NIV)

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

Acts 17:11-12 (NIV)

_____ in a _____.

____ a _____ to _____ in.

What does God think of me when I’m hurting, or doubting?

“Come close to the one true God, and He will draw close to you.”

Acts 17:11-12 (NIV)

“When someone is hurting or brokenhearted, the Eternal moves in close and revives him in his pain.”

Psalm 34:18 (VOICE)

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”

1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:28-31 (NIV)

A real relationship with God is not about believing _____, it is about knowing _____.

Discussion questions:

- What is a question you once had about God or the Bible, that you later learned the answer to?
- What is a question you still have about God or the Bible, and how will you continue to tug on that thread?
- What is the beauty of Christ-followers all having genuine relationships with Jesus, instead of feeling like they must fake emotion or knowledge?

Recommended resources:

The Reason for God, by Tim Keller
Mere Christianity, by CS Lewis
The Case for Faith, by Lee Strobel
How Did I Get Here?, by Christine Caine
The Hidden Peace: Finding True Security, Strength, and Confidence Through Humility, by Joel Muddamalle
The Reconstruction Project: Recovering Truth and Rebuilding Faith, by Andrew Ike Shepardson and Melissa Cain Travis

(NIV) New International Version (VOICE) The Voice

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<u>Doubt</u> is not the <u>opposite</u> of faith. It can be the <u>doorway</u> to <u>deeper</u> faith.

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Process in a safe place.

Be a safe place to process in.

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