

Real People. Real Lives. Real Choices. Real Consequences.
Real God.

THE TRAIL OF REASON:
GOD ANSWERS

Scripture Passage:

John 20:24-29

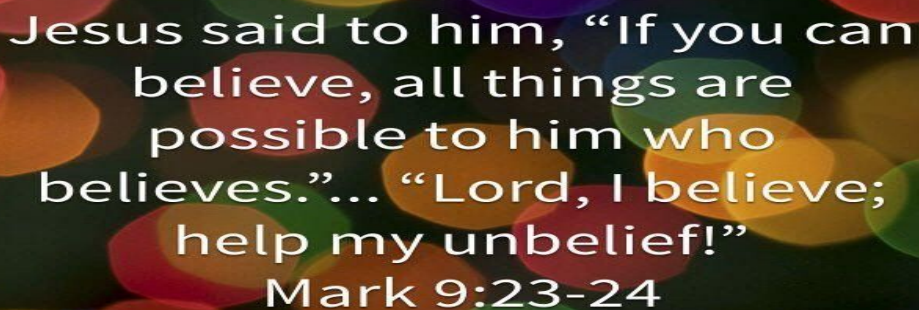
Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Memory Verse:



Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes..." "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"
Mark 9:23-24

Thomas, who was called Didymus, was one of the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was bold to talk what was on his mind, He did not hesitate to express his views. On the day of resurrection of Jesus, Thomas was not with the disciples and the women near the tomb. So when they told about their meeting with Jesus, Thomas refused to believe. Thomas is more like the logical reasoning people of today.

Lets see how Jesus addresses the doubting Thomas:

- a) Jesus appears in the room where Thomas was with the disciples, which was actually locked.**



Thomas must have wondered how Jesus came inside. Jesus directly speaks to Thomas, showing his nail pierced hands and his side . Maybe Thomas would not have imagined that he would have a personal encounter with Jesus.

- b) Jesus allows him to touch him and feel him , so that Thomas’s doubt is completely clear.**

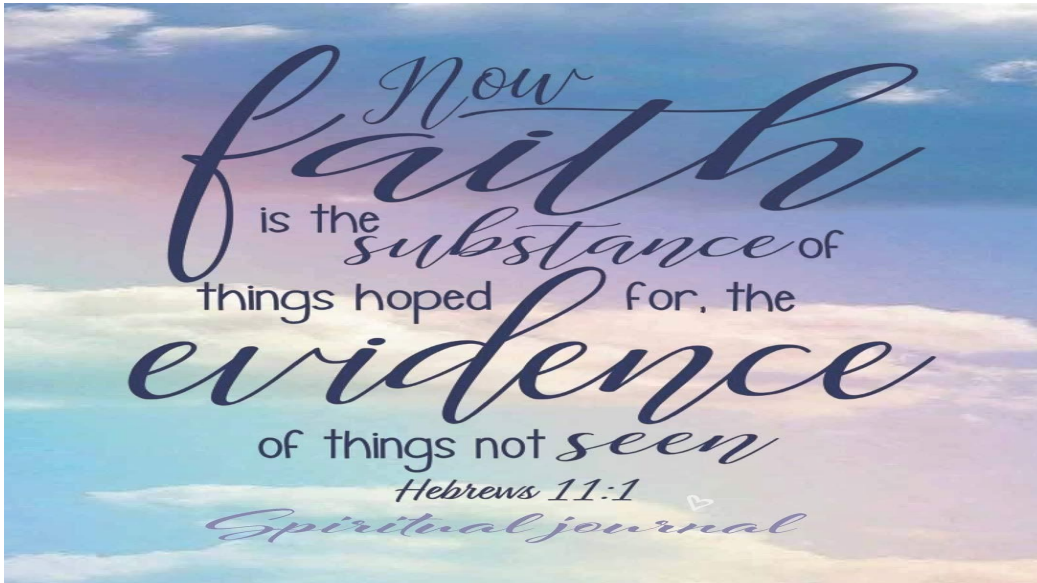


- c) To get a touch from the Lord is so real. Just imagine what would have run through Thomas' mind when he touched....**

Unless you feel Jesus (i.e the word of God) the gospel cannot become reality for many people. So ensure you address people’s doubts with the word of God. When his doubt is cleared , Thomas said “ My lord and My God “ which was a huge realization.It is said Thomas died as a martyr during his mission trip in india preaching the Gospel to the people of kerala and Tamil Nadu.

- d) Jesus said to him “ Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”**

Why do you think Jesus said this to Thomas?



Hebrews 11 : 1 speaks about faith , hope , evidence , and unseen. We know “ Hope is the anchor for our soul. Unless you have an anchor, life goes without direction, Hope comes from faith , that is faith in Jesus, and that faith which is unseen can move mountains. (Matthew: 17 :20) .



That is why Jesus may have educated Thomas that “unseen” and “yet believe” was required in life, to experience more of Jesus .

Thomas outstanding commitment is seen in John : 11: 6-16 .Thomas was with Jesus when the news about Lazarus illness and that he was going to die. But there was a death threat if Jesus went to Bethany, so the disciples preferred not to go but Thomas says “ Let’s go so that we may die with him”. What a difference a touch from the Lord can make !!

Jesus’s identity statement when he declares “ I am the way the truth and the Life” was in response to Thomas' question in John 14 : 1-7, where he asks “Lord we don’t know where you are going so how can we know the way?

It shows that Thomas had taken his faith in Jesus and his discipleship seriously. It also shows that Jesus appreciated Thomas' curiosity and approach. Every answer he gave to Thomas are the answers to many of our questions too.

The extraordinary character of God that we see of God with Thomas, shows how good God is and how patient he is with our behavior which many times could displease him. He never gives up on us . Sometimes he even answers our unexpressed thoughts. Though we forget his promises, he reminds and assures us of his presence and guidance.

To summarise : We learn from this lesson that

- Jesus teaches us to go the extra mile to guide people who are seeking God with their doubts, with help of the word of God.
- The resurrection of Jesus should become reality in our life , so that faith can become stronger. We also will realize the power of the living God.
- When you know Jesus personally, he not only speaks to you through his word but also understands you when nobody understands.
- He never makes you wrong when you have doubts, instead he will make you strong in your weakness because God is patient, gentle, slow to anger and abounding in love. (Psalms 103:8).