

VICTORY OVER DOUBT

Every normal thinking person sometimes wrestles with doubt. Some doubts are minor and quick to flee the mind, some doubts can be deep, debilitating and disturbing. For the believer while there are many different sources of doubt there is one great answer that can help put to rest all doubts and that answer is the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Sincere Doubters

Mark 16:9-11; Luke 24:1-11 In these verses we find the disciples (Apostles) that had lived and trained with Jesus for three and one half years and every one of them doubted His resurrection. They were whining, crying and depressed because they felt abandoned, alone and forsaken.

Mark 9:17-24 Here we see a desperate father who wants his son healed but has little faith and doubts whether Jesus can cure his demonic filled son. He is hurting and frustrated but wants to believe.

John 20:24-25 The most famous of bible doubters is of course poor Thomas. He already had doubted along with the others but now they promise him that they had seen the risen Lord but he still doubted.

Sources Of Doubt

Acts 13:13 On Paul's first missionary journey he and Barnabas had taken John Mark to be a helper. We find that John Mark's personal failure to stay with his commitment later caused a split with Paul and Barnabas. His failure caused him doubts about God's work and that caused hardship for others.

II Timothy 4:9-10 Demas was once a loyal helper in the work but his doubts about service and his sin of "the lust of flesh, lust of the eye" led him to quit the Lord's work and go back into the world.

Matthew 26:69-75; John 21:3 The most highly recognized failure in the New Testament was Peter. He not only doubted with the others the resurrection, he ran at Jesus arrest and then denied ever knowing the Lord. Peter imagined that Jesus would never use him in any way. He wanted to quit his calling and go back to fishing. He was embarrassed, depressed, and defeated from his personal failure.

John 11:1-3, 32, 39 Just like Mary and Martha, sometimes doubt can creep into our Christian life because we do not understand how or why our prayers are answered or not answered how we want.

Luke 24:1-11; John 6:66-67; 14:5 It is clear in these verses that the Apostles were steeped in doubt and fear because they did not understand the scriptures. We sometimes fear the worse when we fail God and do something we think makes God mad. We also doubt and fret not knowing the scriptures.

John 20:19, 24 The bible tells us that Thomas was not with the Apostles when Jesus appeared to them. Like many of us when we are traumatized we desire to be alone and that is just what Satan wants.

Focus On The Resurrection

Matthew 28:1-6; Mark 16:1-6; Luke 24:1-6; John 20:1-9 The empty tomb substantiates His resurrection. This greatest, most powerful event in history is the foundation of our belief system. It is proven in scripture, it is documented in Jewish history and non-Christian documents that Jesus rose.

John 20:1-7 The grave cloths substantiate the resurrection. Who would strip a dead body in order to steal the body? Why were the grave cloths lying there? Why would the napkin be folded by itself?

Luke 24:10; John 20:24-31; I Corinthians 15:6-8 The many eye witnesses that testify seeing the Lord after His resurrection substantiate Jesus resurrection.

II Corinthians 5:7; Romans 8:28 By focusing on the facts and promises of the resurrection and trusting in all that the bible says about the Lord we can trust that God is ever with us and He has our best interest in mind. No matter what comes our way God is in control, we belong to Him and our doubts are only Satan's way of getting us off track from serving, trusting and loving our Lord.