

When Doubt Becomes a Blessing

Questions That Can Lead Us Closer to Christ

Primary Scripture: John 20:24-29 (KJV)

Faith is not having every question answered. Faith is knowing whom you will trust when the answers do not come.

Introduction - The Disciple Who Needed to Know

Thomas has carried a nickname for centuries: *Doubting Thomas*. But when we slow down and read John 20, we see more than a man who doubted. We see a disciple whose world had collapsed. The One he had followed, trusted, and believed to be the Messiah had been crucified. The other disciples told Thomas that Jesus was alive, but Thomas needed to know for himself.

His words were strong: unless he saw the wounds and touched them, he would not believe. Yet Jesus did not cast Thomas aside. Jesus came to him. He met Thomas at the very place of his question and invited him closer.

1. Doubt Often Begins in a Broken Heart

Not every question comes from rebellion. Sometimes questions come from grief, disappointment, fear, or a prayer that did not seem to be answered the way we hoped. Thomas had watched Jesus die. His doubt grew in the soil of loss.

I understand something about that kind of questioning. I was raised in a minister's home and knew about God from an early age. But when my mother became ill and died while I was still a teenager, the faith I had inherited was forced to become personal. I had questions. I had hurt. I had anger. God was not frightened by any of it.

There are moments when we pray for healing, pray for a marriage, pray for our children, or simply cry, "Lord, where are You?" A question spoken in pain is not necessarily the end of faith. It may be the beginning of a deeper one.

2. Jesus Welcomes Honest Questions

Eight days later, Jesus stood among the disciples again. Thomas was there. Jesus did not humiliate him. He did not say, "You asked too many questions, so you no longer belong here." Instead, He addressed Thomas personally: reach out your hand; see My wounds; do not remain faithless, but believe.

That matters. Jesus knew exactly what Thomas had said even though He had not been visibly present when Thomas said it. Christ knew the question before Thomas ever stood before Him - and He came anyway.

We do not have to pretend with God. Faith is not pretending everything makes sense. Faith is saying, "Lord, I do not understand, but I am staying with You."

3. Doubt Can Become a Doorway to Deeper Faith

Thomas's story does not end with his demand for evidence. It ends with one of the clearest confessions of faith in the Gospel of John: "My Lord and my God." The question did not drive Thomas permanently away from Christ. When he encountered the risen Jesus, the question brought him to a deeper confession.

That is why I believe doubt can sometimes become a blessing. Not because doubt itself is the goal, and not because every doubt is healthy, but because an honest question brought to Jesus can force us to examine what we believe and whom we trust. Borrowed faith can become personal faith. Surface faith can grow roots.

4. The Blessing for Those Who Have Not Seen

Jesus then looked beyond Thomas to generations of believers who would come afterward: "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." That includes us. We did not stand in that room. We have not placed our hands in the wounds of the risen Christ. Yet we trust the testimony of Scripture and place our lives in His hands.

That does not mean we will never struggle. It means our struggles have somewhere to go. Our questions can be carried to Christ instead of carried away from Him.

Personal Application - When Answers Do Not Come

Life has given me more than one season in which I wanted answers. I cannot explain why my mother died. I cannot explain every family or ministry struggle. I cannot explain why serious illness entered my life, why I needed a liver transplant, or why my wife developed glioblastoma and died. There are questions for which I still do not have a complete answer.

But I know the One to whom I bring the questions. Through the years, God has taught me that faith is not having every answer. It is knowing whom to trust when the answers do not come.

My Lord. My God.

Conclusion - Bring the Question to Jesus

If you are struggling today, do not assume your question has disqualified you from faith. Bring it to Jesus. Let the question drive you deeper into His Word, deeper into prayer, and deeper into

relationship with Him. Thomas stayed close enough to encounter the risen Christ. His story did not finish with doubt; it finished with worship.

When you understand, walk with Him. When you do not understand, walk with Him. When you are rejoicing, walk with Him. When you are grieving, walk with Him. Trust Him. Trust His will. Go deeper. Love the people He gives you. Serve wherever He places you.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You that You are not afraid of our questions. When our faith feels weak, when disappointment clouds what we can see, and when we do not understand what You are doing, teach us to bring our questions to You instead of running away from You.

Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. Meet us in our grief, confusion, fear, and uncertainty. Take the questions we cannot answer and use them to draw us closer to Jesus. Strengthen our trust when we cannot see the road ahead, and teach us to rest in Your faithfulness and Your will.

May our lives come to the same confession Thomas made when he stood before the risen Christ: "My Lord and my God." In Jesus' name, Amen.

Prepared for free ministry use by Rick Hicks Ministries.