

## What Are You Waiting For?

- Are you waiting for that faith experience—a faith experience such as others have had?
  - > Everybody thinks that someone else “gets it.”
  - > “I wish I had my grandmother’s faith!”  
Don’t sell your grandmother short!  
Don’t minimize or oversimplify her faith journey! She probably struggled, she prayed, and when she doubted, she persevered!
  - > Thomas is a lot like us! Envious, feeling left out...and probably feeling less worthy.
- Are you waiting for hard evidence, or for tangible proofs?
  - > Thomas thought he needed concrete evidence. In truth, he never followed through. He discovered late in the game that faith goes beyond sight and touch.
  - > What evidence would it take?
    - + The disciples saw walking on the water, healing the sick, multiplying the loaves and fish, and the raising of the dead—yet some still doubted.
    - + The truth is that nothing in the finite world can prove the infinite. Nothing mortal can prove the immortal. Nothing scientific can prove—or disprove!—the spiritual.
- Are you stubborn about accepting anything that isn’t all about you?
  - > The conditions imposed by Thomas are clear and absolute: personal verification by sight, but not only do I need to see but I also need to touch the very marks of his crucifixion.
  - > It has to make sense to me...It must appeal to my philosophical and theological presuppositions!
  - > It must be the way I would have structured it!
  - > It never bothers us that we hardly understand anything! Each of us is like the blind man describing an elephant! We only understand a small part of the reality around us! Science, technology, industry, craftsmanship, art, biology— even simple things such as electricity, mechanics, or television!
- Are you afraid to commit?
  - > Thomas says he won’t believe. Could it be that he isn’t ready for his whole life to change?
    - + For his preconceived notions of reality and existence to be turned on their ear?
  - + Could it be that he isn’t sure he’s willing to accept the faith responsibilities that the Lordship of Jesus Christ would demand?
  - > Believe me—this is just where many Christians fall by the wayside!
    - + I don’t want all my rehearsed rationalizations to fall apart!
    - + If I truly commit to the Lord, how do I justify missing Bible studies, or avoiding service on a church committee?
    - + How do I rationalize the small window I give to prayer?
    - + What is my excuse for meager financial contributions?
    - + If I just straddle the fence a little, if I just dip my toe into Christianity, then, perhaps, nothing will be expected of me.
- Are you afraid that it is too wonderful to be true?
  - > My wife and her first nice car.
  - > The reaction of Thomas upon seeing the Lord is powerful! He confesses, “My Lord and my God!”
  - > This is the most complete and beautiful faith statement uttered by any of the disciples that we know of—even beyond Peter’s confession or Nathanael’s exclamation!
- Now is the time! Stop waiting!
  - > It’s YOUR experience—no one else’s. Open your heart that God will speak to YOU! God knows exactly what YOU need— God will deliver, and God will deliver YOU!
  - > God will meet you; but it is NOT all about you. Don’t let your eternity depend on your physical senses or your wisdom, or your understanding. Trust in the Lord—who was Word and Wisdom before time began!
  - > Don’t become lost demanding tangible evidence for intangible truths. Concrete proofs are for those with concrete heads.
  - > Commit in faith, and realize that Jesus Christ DOES want the most wonderful and abundant blessings for you and for all his children!
- Revel in the beautiful words of Christ.
  - > Dare to believe that You are singled out by Jesus for high purpose and lofty blessings.
  - > Rejoice that it can be YOU of whom Jesus speaks when he says, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe!”
- What are you waiting for?!

## **John 20:24-29**

- 24 Although Thomas the Twin was one of the twelve disciples, he wasn't with the others when Jesus appeared to them.
- 25 So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But Thomas said, "First, I must see the nail scars in his hands and touch them with my finger. I must put my hand where the spear went into his side. I won't believe unless I do this!"
- 26 A week later the disciples were together again. This time, Thomas was with them. Jesus came in while the doors were still locked and stood in the middle of the group. He greeted his disciples
- 27 and said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands! Put your hand into my side. Stop doubting and have faith!"
- 28 Thomas replied, "You are my Lord and my God!"
- 29 Jesus said, "Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me? The people who have faith in me without seeing me are the ones who are really blessed!"



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