



WEEK SIX

THOMAS

JOHN 20:19-31



ENCOUNTERS

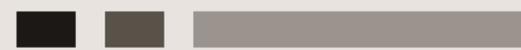


JOHN SERIES





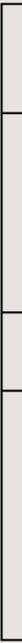
**“Blessed are those who have not
seen and yet have believed.”**





Things People Doubt

Creation

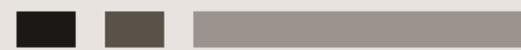


Genesis 1:1 NIV

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.



“ _____ ” Thomas





“ _____ ” (Your name)





John 11:5-8 NIV

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.
⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, ⁷ and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.” ⁸ “But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?”



John 11:14-16 NIV

So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶ **Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”**



John 14:1-6 NIV

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² 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? ³ 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. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.”

⁵ **Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”** ⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”



John 20:24-25 NIV

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.
²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” **But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”**



Things People Doubt

Salvation



John 6:47 NIV

“Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.”



Things People Doubt
Word of God

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.



Things People Doubt

Word of God

2 Peter 1:19-21 NIV

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.



Things People Doubt

God's promises

Romans 4:20-22 NIV

Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²² This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.”



Things People Doubt
God's promises

Titus 1:1-2 NIV

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness—² in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time...



Things People Doubt
God's care



1 Peter 5:6-7 NIV

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.



Things People Doubt
God's care

Matthew 10:29-30 NIV

“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care.
³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”



Things People Doubt

Will God supply my needs?

Matthew 6:33 NIV

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”



Things People Doubt

Will Jesus return?

John 14:1-3 NIV

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² 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? ³ 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.”



Things People Doubt

Does Satan really exist?



Luke 10:18 NIV

He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”



Things People Doubt

Does Satan really exist?

1 Peter 5:8-9 NIV

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.
⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.



Things People Doubt

What about Lot's wife?



Luke 17:32 NIV

“Remember Lot's wife!”



Instances of Doubt in Scripture

Zechariah



Luke 1:18-20 NIV

Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”

¹⁹ The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰ And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”



Instances of Doubt in Scripture

Rhoda and the praying Church

Acts 12:11-13 NIV

Then Peter came to himself and said, “Now I know **without a doubt** that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod’s clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen.” ¹² When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. ¹³ Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door.



Instances of Doubt in Scripture

Rhoda and the praying Church

Acts 12:14-16 NIV

When she recognized Peter’s voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, “Peter is at the door!” ¹⁵ “You’re out of your mind,” they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, “It must be his angel.” ¹⁶ But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.



Instances of Doubt in Scripture

John the Baptist

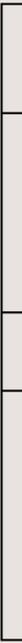
Matthew 11:1-4 NIV

After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. ² When John, **who was in prison**, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, **“Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”** ⁴ Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see...”



Instances of Doubt in Scripture

No one greater!



Matthew 11:11a NIV

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist...”



Doubt

- is normal and not an indicator of weak faith
- is conquered by searching the Scriptures
- may lead you to greater knowledge and discoveries
- may renew your fervor and commitment to Christ



World or Word





Mark 9:21-24 NIV

Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. ²² "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." ²³ " 'If **you** can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes." ²⁴ Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "**I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!**"

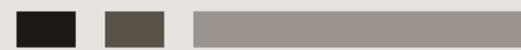


Mark 9:25-27 NIV

When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. “You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” ²⁶ The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He’s dead.” ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.



**“I do believe; help me
overcome my unbelief!”**





John 20:26-28 NIV

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”







“”

Every man ought to have the chance to correct his epitaph in midstream and write a new one.

- ALFRED NOBEL



Doubt vs.



Trust

Confidence

Belief

Certainty



John 20:29-31 NIV

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; **blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**” ³⁰ Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written **that you may believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.