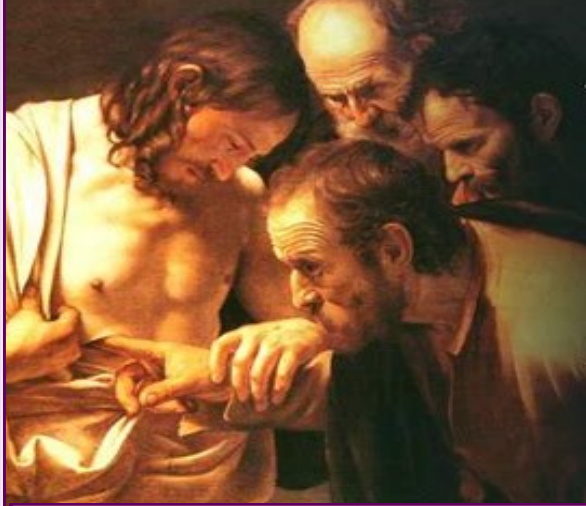


Thomas

"After The Resurrection"



"But he said, 'Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won't believe it.'" John 20:25

"I don't think of myself as a doubter, and Jesus never chastised me for my questioning. In fact, he answered my questions in a way to make me think then through for myself and I took that as a compliment.

"This whole episode stems from my questioning after the death and resurrection of Christ. I had been with him while he was alive. I had seen him do many miracles and I knew him as my Savior, but I was struck by his crucifixion just as the other followers of his preaching.

"Then to be told that he had risen from the dead and appeared to the others

while I was not in the room was very difficult to accept. I didn't really say I didn't believe, but I did say that until I saw the nail holes in his hands, and the gash in his side, I would not believe. That may seem like splitting hairs, but to me there is a definite difference. I wanted to believe. I wanted to see those things so I could tell others.

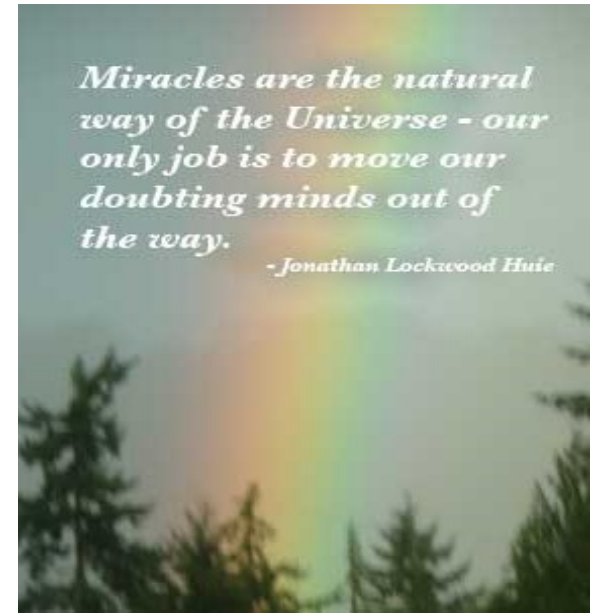
"Does doubting imply that doubt is opposed to faith? Many believers have doubts or things they can't comprehend. That does not necessarily make them bad people.

"When Matthew wrote about our being with Jesus before he ascended into Heaven, he said *'And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.'* Matthew 28:16. That did not make us unbelievers. Then Jesus appeared to us and said *'Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.'* He trusted us to do his command and we did. At that time, I think Matthew understood that I was no longer a doubter. I don't think we were the only people who had doubts about certain things then any more than some people do today. Faith is not an easy thing to comprehend. Many men learned in books and science have doubted because they cannot accept faith and something they cannot see and touch.

"I believe that Jesus knew my heart. About a week after I had told the other

Miracles are the natural way of the Universe - our only job is to move our doubting minds out of the way.

- Jonathan Lockwood Huie



disciples that I wanted to see the nail holes and the gash in his side, we were gathered in the same room and he appeared again. He didn't come through the locked doors. He just appeared and said *'Peace to you.'* Then he looked directly at me and said *'Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don't be unbelieving. Believe.'* I answered *'My Master! My God!'* Then he made a wonderful statement with two beautiful messages. *'So, you believe because you've seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing.'* He acknowledged that he knew I believed, but he also told of the wonderful blessings of people who had not had the privilege of seeing the nail holes and his side as being even more blessed.

"I don't think for a minute that Jesus was upset with my statement or doubted my belief. When we were with

Lazarus Jesus mentioned going back to Judea where some had tried to stone Jesus. They were afraid, but whether I was just foolish or not, I responded *'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'*

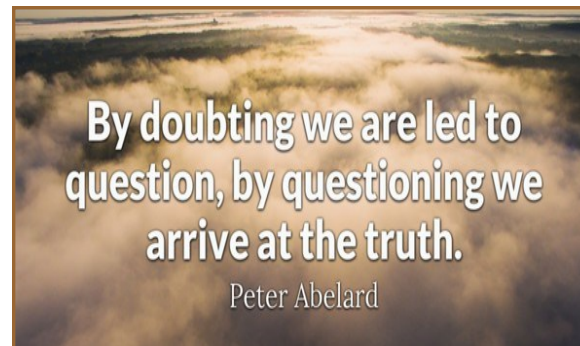
"He tried to answer our questions in a way we could understand, but I don't believe any of us really understood. When he told us that he was going to leave us to go prepare a heavenly home where we could join him one day, we questioned but again I spoke up and said *'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?'* Jesus gave me an answer that makes a lot of sense to me today, but at that time, I was just at a loss to know what he was saying. John 14:6. Even Philip questioned and I know others did also. Peter chastised me for not believing the first time that Jesus appeared to them but he was there, I was not. John seemed to understand my feelings and he was the only one of us that stayed by the cross while Jesus died. We were all afraid and confused.

"Many people see their hopes and dreams destroyed, but we all know that if we know Jesus as the true Messiah we had all hoped for, we can rejoice with a radiant and joyful face as I did and say *'My Lord and my God.'*

"And I now know that he went to prepare a place for me."

A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.

Christopher Reeve



Prayer: Master, There are times when I doubt because I do not understand, and I know that is when my faith needs to help me. My finite mind is so small. Please help me to praise you as my Lord and my God. Help me to see the beauty in life and the promises you have given to me. Set me steadfast in Your path and lead me to the way of everlasting peace. Amen.

1. Why do you think Thomas doubted?
2. Do you ever doubt?
3. Does doubting help us to really know the truth? How?
4. When should we doubt?
5. It has been said that it is impossible to lead a full life without doubting. Do you agree with that statement?
6. Can we receive rewards by doubting?

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info@rgscripts.com

*"Whenever you find yourself
doubting how far you can go,
just remember how far you
have come. Remember every-
thing you have faced, all the
battles you have won, all the
fears you have overcome.*

You can do it!"

Anonymous