

When Did You Begin To Believe?

The pursuit of our faith (Christianity) comes in seasons as we move forward in our journey of faith. The fact is that we're all somewhere in our belief.

When did you begin to believe?

Sometimes in our lives our belief system blows up. What we had, (in relation to faith, our belief) didn't translate into the new season. A great biblical example is Thomas:

"24 Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."(John 20:24, 25) (ESV)

Thomas says; "I will never believe..."

Thomas walked with Jesus for three years; he saw the miracles, healings, heard him teach and other signs and wonders. But at this juncture in his life something shifted, he needed something new.

This is what is called, "emotional consequences to our belief". The rug had been pulled out from under him.

What we thought was going to happen or get better doesn't happen we have a problem;

Belief can create a problem: God

Maybe you've given God the benefit of the doubt in your life and circumstances, but now your demanding an explanation or that God must fix it.

We have three options:

Option A: Self-deception

Sometimes we will use God's written word to deceive ourselves; picking out a verse that does not reflect what God is doing or saying while going through a season or a challenge.

Maybe you're thinking; I'm a Christian and smarter or superior to everyone else around me.

You have a "rapture" mentality "none of this matters anyway, I'm out of

else around me.

You have a “rapture” mentality “none of this matters anyway, I’m out of here”!

Option B: You can argue

Maybe you’ve worked this out intellectually, but your heart is not there.

Option C: Yield

Some of us have fallen in a hole and can’t get out; the incarnation tells us that Jesus jumps in the hole with us. This may not seem logical or make any sense right away, but he tells us that he has been here before and he knows the way out.

Thomas yielded and Jesus showed up, “my Lord and my God”

Video Clip: <https://youtube/gr9anjiIW6U>

26 “Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although 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, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” 28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (John 20:26-29) (ESV)

We don’t have to suffer alone, when the chips are down all that matters, is that Jesus is with us.

“I will never leave you nor forsake you.” 6 So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper, I will not fear; what can man do to me?” (Hebrews 13:5, 6)

Who is holding you right now?

For Thomas this was all he needed for this season of his life. From “I will never believe...” to eventually ending up in India sharing the Gospel ultimately being martyred for his faith. The man who wouldn’t believe yielded.

For us our “beef” may not even be with God. Possibly we’ve become stagnant, dry, or out of gas and living on the embers of our faith of long ago. We are in desperate need of a fresh revelation of Jesus.

The Apostle John, (as with Thomas) saw and experienced the incarnate Jesus as few did. However John knew Jesus in a more intimate way because he was in Jesus inner circle.

Despite all of this, this same John will meet the resurrected Jesus as recorded in Revelation 1:12-18 as he has never seen him before.

In a sense Jesus was saying:

John you know me as well as human on earth, but you need to see me in a new way so you can go where I am going to take you.

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Discussion Questions

- 1) In this season of your life where are you at in your belief. Maybe you've never even thought about it, but how would you describe where are you at?
- 2) In your walk with Jesus have you ever had a similar experience as Thomas did? His faith, belief hit a brick wall, it blew up he had nowhere to turn. What he had experienced didn't translate into this season of his life.
- 3) Russ suggested that belief can create a problem and that problem may be God. Have you experienced this in your walk, where you've come to a point of demanding an explanation or action?
- 4) He next explained that we have three choices when we're faced with this. We can deceive ourselves, argue or yield, please discuss how you view these three options.
- 5) Are you at a point where like Thomas and John you need Jesus to show himself to you in a fresh way for the season ahead? Maybe your beef is not with God, but you've gotten stagnant, dry or out of Gas. Where ever we find ourselves or whatever is going on, his presence makes all the difference.