

## Fog Of Doubt

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic  
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Tomas was interested to follow where the Lord was going; but he had one bout of doubt. In essence, Tomas was doing what Jesus told them. He wanted to have proof that it was indeed Jesus. "Do not easily believe the prophets..." (Matthew 24:23-24). Everyone goes through doubts in faith; this is only natural. However, if we surrender to doubt, it can shatter our lives. When we have doubts, we need the peace of the Lord, so that we will be able to carry on.

### 1. There are 3 kinds of believers. Those who believe in God may be characterized by their:

- 1.1. **Casual faith:** faith is not deep; thus, they do not follow Christ.
- 1.2. **Convenient faith:** those who simply do so for what they can get from it. Many who were healed stopped following Jesus, and were not willing to pay the cost (Lk14).
- 1.3. **Committed faith** – fulfill their commitment at whatever cost, no excuses. If anyone follows the Lord, there is no rose garden, there will be thorns among the roses.

### 2. Tomas was in fact a dedicated follower:

- 2.1. The choosing of the Apostles. Tomas had a strong faith, he was part of the mission and wanted to follow the Lord (Lk 6:12-13,).
- 2.2. The miracle of Lazarus. He was willing to die (Jn 11:16).
- 2.3. Tomas believed because he saw the Lord. He stood among them and said "peace be with you" (Jn 14:5-6; Jn 20:24-29).

### 3. How can we defeat our doubts: We have to be honest with our doubts. Christians who never doubt or never struggle with temptation do not exist:

- 3.1. **Focus on God in our low times.** Let us give ourselves time to go through the low times - these are temporary. Whenever darkness brings despair, turn to Christ.
- 3.2. **Draw strength from others.** Isolation magnifies doubts. The Lord needs to see proof of our trust In Him (Lk 14). Tomas

was away when he had his doubts; eventually, he returned to the assembly of the people of God.

- 3.3. **Be careful who we listen to.** When we spend time with people who corrupt character, then we will be corrupted. Tomas wisely listened to Jesus. When we are in the community, we learn from everyone (Ps 1).
- 3.4. **Be careful who we hang out with.** Better to be with people who uplift us. Christians are guilty of listening to others instead of reading the Bible themselves (Acts 17:11).
- 3.5. **Be careful what we place our faith in.** Worldly things fail: fame, family, jobs. Let us place our faith in God alone (1Cor 15).
- 3.6. **Know HIM fully.** The more we know Him, the stronger our faith. If we talk with the Lord often, satan cannot tempt us to doubt. Knowledge of God produces faith.
- 3.7. **When our faith is unstable, let us list the signs and wonders that God has done in our life.** We live in a life by design. His plans are mighty, more than our own plans. The strongest Christians experienced difficulties but their faith remained unshakeable.
- 3.8. **Don't panic. God is in control** (Mt 14:22-33). God is a promise keeper. He always works on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour. He may not answer with a Yes; that means He has something better.

### Conclusion:

Whatever fog there is in our minds, let us turn to the Lord, trust Him, have faith in Him. He brings us peace. When we are attacked by doubt and fear, let us be reminded that Jesus Christ is alive. God is bigger than our problems.

**Reflection:** What can bring confidence to your faith so that you can hold firmly with God?

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