

# STOP DOUBTING AND BELIEVE

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John 20:19-29 (p. 1686)

April 21, 2019

*"Stop doubting and believe."  
And Thomas said to [Jesus], "My Lord and my God,"  
John 20:27-28*

## **What happened that day**

*On the evening of the first day of the week . . . .  
John 20:19*

1) Resurrection is CERTAIN

2) NO ONE believed

## **"Peace be with you!"**

*Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"  
After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed . . . .  
John 20:19b-20*

## **The mission and the Spirit**

*"As the Father sent me, I am sending you."  
And with that he breathed in them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit . . . ."  
John 20:21-22 (see the mission in Luke 4:14-21 and Acts 1:8)*

## **Believing Thomas**

*"Unless I see the nail marks in his hands . . . I will not believe it"  
John 20:25*

## The blessing for belief

*Then Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen, yet have believed.”*

John 20:29 (see 1 John 4:1-3)

1) Stop means DOUBT IS NOT THE ENEMY

2) Take you belief SERIOUSLY

## Resources for further study of John 9

The Belgic Confession, Articles 18-21 and Lord’s Day 7, at <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/>  
Atheists article at <https://www.breitbart.com/faith/2019/04/20/atheists-exploit-holy-week-claim-jesus-did-not-exist/>

James Montgomery Boice’s essays at <https://www.monergism.com/these-things-are-written-so-you-may-believe>

Deffinbaugh’s “Seeing is Believing” at <https://bible.org/seriespage/46-seeing-and-believing-john-2010-31>

Martin Lloyd-Jones’ studies at <https://www.monergism.com/life-god-soul-man-john-410-13%E2%80%9314>

John MacArthur’s “The Hopelessness of the Stubbornly Blind” at <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/43-51/the-hopelessness-of-the-stubbornly-blind>

Spurgeon’s sermon on John 20, “My Lord and My God” at <https://www.monergism.com/my-lord-and-my-god-john-2028>

Earl Palmer’s *The Intimate Gospel* (Word, 1987).

Merrill Tenney’s *John: The Gospel of Belief* (Eerdmans, 1948).

## Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 7

Q 21. What is true faith?

A. True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture;<sup>1</sup>

it is also a wholehearted trust,<sup>2</sup> which the Holy Spirit creates in me<sup>3</sup> by the gospel,<sup>4</sup> that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also,<sup>5</sup> forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation.<sup>6</sup>

These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ’s merit.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John 17:3, 17; Heb. 11:1-3; James 2:19 <sup>2</sup> Rom. 4:18-21; 5:1; 10:10; Heb. 4:14-16 <sup>3</sup> Matt. 16:15-17; John 3:5; Acts 16:14

<sup>4</sup> Rom. 1:16; 10:17; 1 Cor. 1:21 <sup>5</sup> Gal. 2:20;

<sup>6</sup> Rom. 1:17; Heb. 10:10; <sup>7</sup> Rom. 3:21-26; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-10

## Completing the Gospel of John

Monday: John 20:1-9, Who moved the stone?

This is the title of Frank Morison's classic 1930 apologetic study. How do you answer the questions that were on Mary's mind that resurrection morning?

Tuesday: John 20:10-18, "I have seen the Lord!"

How does Mary's life change at this precise moment? What happened the moment that you met Jesus? Did you, like Mary, have trouble convincing anyone it was true?

Wednesday: John 20:19-31, Believe like Thomas

What evidence supports your faith? How has this evidence been helpful (or not!?) in your moments of doubt?

Thursday: John 21:29-31, That you might believe

Which of John's evidences of belief in his Gospel most encourages your faith? Where would you suggest a not-yet-believer start in reading John's Gospel?

Friday: John 21:1-14, The miracle of the fish

What principles should Pastor Fakkema practice on his next trip to Nootka Sound? to the Sea of Galilee? What did this miracle reveal about Jesus' character and the disciples' faith?

Saturday: John 21:15-25, One last "Follow me"

While many focus on "Feed my sheep," Pastor Fakkema likes to begin with "Follow me." What does this passage add to our Great Commission understanding? How does "Follow me" challenge your own walk with Jesus? your own mission?