

April 21, 2019  
John 20:24-29 – Application Questions

1. Thomas didn't believe the other disciples when they told him that they had seen Jesus. Thomas required proof before he would believe that Jesus was alive. **Is it wrong to need proof in order to believe?**
2. Some people hear the message of Jesus once and believe it. Others are more methodical and research the claims of the Bible before they can believe. **Why do some people require more evidence compared to others?**
3. How did you come to faith in Christ? **Was it a simple process for you? Or, did you need time to think more deeply about the claims of the Bible and have some of your most important questions answered before you could believe?**
4. Thomas is often referred to as "Doubting Thomas" because he said he needed proof to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. In verse 26, Jesus appears to Thomas and the disciples. Jesus doesn't berate Thomas for not having enough faith. Instead, Jesus gives Thomas the proof he needs to believe. **Does Jesus give everyone the proof they need in order to believe? Put another way, if someone doesn't believe in Christ, is it somehow Jesus' fault because he didn't give them enough proof?**
5. Jesus accepted Thomas' faith after the fact. But Jesus says people who are able to believe without physically seeing all the proof are "blessed." **In what ways could these types of people be blessed (in a way different than Thomas was blessed)?**
6. **Have you ever been discouraged, and your faith started to waiver, but God did something that strengthened and encouraged you so that you were able to get through that difficult season?**
7. **When does doubt (or needing more proof in order to believe) become a problem?**
8. **If you are a Christian, what was the most difficult thing for you to believe about Jesus or the Bible when you were deciding to follow Jesus? Or, if you are still in the decision process, what currently is the most difficult thing for you to believe about Jesus or the Bible?** It's OK to be truthful. Some parts of the Bible can be tough to understand or at least cause us to raise questions.
9. Church people use the term "blessed" a lot. **What does "blessed" mean?**
10. **What are the blessings of following Christ?**
11. **What are the burdens of following Christ?**
12. **At this moment, are you feeling more of the burden or the blessing of following Christ? Explain.**
13. **How can we pray for you?**