

Believe, Trust, Obey God

The Resurrection, John 20:1-8, ESV

20 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³ So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴ Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷ and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;

It is amazing how the disciples lived with Jesus, witnessed miracles, healings, feedings, walking on water, calming storms and bringing dead people back to life, yet they had a belief problem. The disciples were eyewitnesses to many of the most mindboggling occurrences in history, yet they had a big problem believing what they saw. We often criticize them because they just didn't get it.

So what's our excuse? We have the entire Bible and the Holy Spirit, yet we don't live out the example of Christ. We don't act like we get it. Our flesh is always leading us to sin, in opposition to the Spirit, who is always leading us to righteousness.

As we pray, we need to be aware of this condition. Meditate on it, sorrow over it, and pray for relief. Pray that the Spirit of God might overcome your flesh, so that you might believe with your heart as you believe with your head.

He is risen, indeed!

Lord, I am weak and needy, and that's how you want me to be. I am slow to learn and quick to forget. I believe what you say, but I don't believe it as I should. I want to please you, but I often please myself instead. I want to trust, believe, follow, praise, obey and rely on you alone, but often I trust and rely on myself. But as much as I like to think I'm something special, I know that I'm not.

You are my only hope and salvation, my rock and my redeemer. I pray that you will forgive my sins of pride, selfishness and self-sufficiency, and increase my faith in Jesus Christ, my belief in what you say, my trust in only you, and that you will decrease my faith and trust in myself. Teach me to live and trust in your power, that you provide the power as I do your will and as I walk in your ways.

Keep me weak and needy, always knowing that your strength is always available, all powerful and never ending. My only hope is you. I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior. Amen.