



Ecclesiastes 3:11b, *He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.*

John 20:19, *On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."*

- ✳ **The Doors Being Locked** | Despite the empty tomb and the sightings of Jesus, the disciples are hiding behind locked door in fear.
- ✳ **Jesus Came And Stood Among Them** | Jesus breaks the rules by just showing up without knocking and then entering through a locked door.
- ✳ **God loves us enough to help us overcome our doubts and struggles.** Jesus showed up with grace not judgment.
- ✳ **Peace Be With You** | although this was a traditional Jewish greeting, Jesus means something more here. Jesus doesn't merely wish us peace, He has become our Peace.

John 20:22, *After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."*

- ✳ **Peace** | is mentioned again, but now it is connected to the God-given mission.
- ✳ **I Am Sending You** | Jesus sends Believers out into the world to proclaim the Good News of the resurrected Jesus.

John 20:24, *Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came.*

- ✳ **This was the most dramatic day in the history of the world:** but Thomas missed it!

John 11:16, *So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."*

John 20:25, *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."*

- ✳ **The very disciples who had just been sent with Spirit-empowered authority** to announce the Good News of the resurrected Jesus are immediately rejected by one of their own.
- ✳ **I Will Never Believe** | A careful study of the Gospels reveals that Thomas believed Jesus is God in the flesh, but he doesn't yet believe in the resurrection.

John 20:26-27, *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." 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."*

- * **Do Not Disbelieve, But Believe** | Thomas is willing to believe, but only on his terms. However, Jesus is ushering in a new way to relate to Him; not through his physical presence, but through the Holy Spirit.
- * **Thomas isn't in need of a conversion** (from no faith to faith), but a transition from the old way of following Jesus to the new way.

John 20:28-29, *Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

- * **My Lord And My God** | The Gospel isn't only the universal fact that Jesus is Lord and God, but it's also intended to be personal, that Jesus is MY Lord and MY God.
- * **In the Gospel of John, faith is always the work of God in a human heart**, and not the result of the mere calculation of evidence.
- * **Blessed** | Makarios: fortunate, happy, an expression of praise or congratulations.
- * **Thomas represents those of us who have never seen Jesus in the flesh.** Just as Thomas should have accepted the testimony of the eyewitnesses of the resurrected Jesus, so should we. The Gospels are eyewitness accounts of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

John 20:30-31, *Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

- * **Believe** | pisteuo: believe, faith, trust; specifically in Jesus

1. MY SOUL NEEDS THE GRACE OF JESUS

Romans 10:9-10, *If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.*

- * **There is a Personal Faith:** to believe in my heart God raise Him from dead
- * **There is a Public Response:** to confess with my mouth; it's not private
- * **We Believe and Confess but God did all the heavy lifting.** We are saved by grace (a free gift).

2. MY SOUL NEEDS GOD'S WORD

John 20:29b, *Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*

John 21:24, *This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.*

3. MY SOUL NEEDS THE HOLY SPIRIT

Romans 8:11, *If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.*

4. MY SOUL NEEDS PEOPLE OF FAITH

- * **Just like Thomas, we need to be connected** to other Believers.