



BELIEVE

The Gospel of **John**



I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England.”



³⁰ Now Jesus did many other **signs** in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ 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.

John 20:30-31 ESV



Seven Signs in John's Gospel

Passage	Sign	Significance
2:1-11	Water into wine	Jesus offers abundant Joy
2:12-17	Cleansing the temple	Jesus has authority as God
4:46-54	Healing the noble's son	Jesus' word has power
5:1-9	Healing lame man	Jesus offers spiritual wholeness
6:1-14	Feeding the 5,000	Jesus offers spiritual sustenance
9:1-12	Healing the blind man	Jesus gives spiritual sight
11:1-46	Raising Lazarus	Jesus has power over death

**Where are you on your journey of
belief?**



²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. 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.”

²⁶ 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.” ²⁷ 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.”

John 20:26–27 ESV

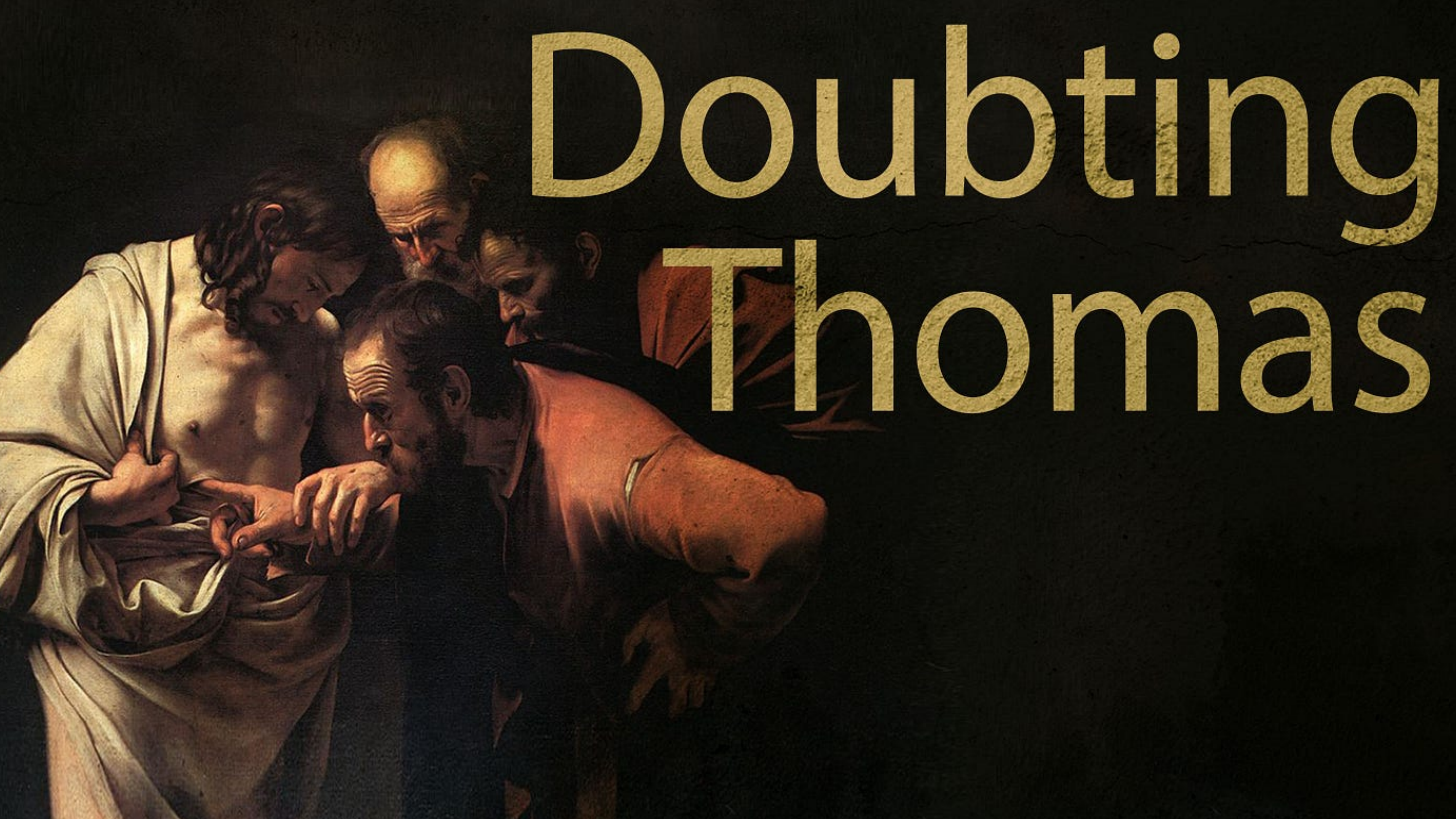


²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

John 20:28–29 ESV



³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ 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.



Doubting Thomas

Belief vs. Doubt

I. Reality of Doubt

I. **Reality of Doubt**

a. Doubt is a normal human experience

Thomas in John's Gospel

Scripture	Saying	Quality
<i>Jn. 11:16</i>	“Let us also go, that we may die with him.”	Steadfast & Brave

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<i>Jn. 20:25</i>	“Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails... I will never believe.”	Skeptical & Doubtful

I. Reality of Doubt

- a. Doubt is a normal human experience
- b. Doubt is a part of the faith process

² Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, **“Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?”**

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but **some doubted.**

“A faith without some doubts,” he says, “is like a human body without any antibodies in it. People who blithely go through life too busy or indifferent to ask hard questions about why they believe as they do will find themselves defenseless against either the experience of tragedy or the probing questions of a smart skeptic. A person’s faith can collapse almost overnight if she has failed over the years to listen to her own doubts, which should only be discarded after long reflection. Believers should acknowledge and wrestle with doubts...”

Tim Keller



Belief vs. Doubt

- I. Reality of Doubt
- II. Responding to Doubt

II. Responding to Doubt

- a. Show mercy to those who doubt.

²⁰ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not quench...

Matthew 12:20 ESV



II. Responding to Doubt

- a. Show mercy to those who doubt.
- b. Doubt your doubts

⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and **take every thought captive** to obey Christ,

2 Corinthians 10:5 ESV



II. Responding to Doubt

- a. Show mercy to those who doubt.
- b. Doubt your doubts
- c. Doubt toward God

²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “**I believe; help my unbelief!**”

Mark 9:24 ESV



Belief vs. Doubt

- I. Reality of Doubt
- II. Responding to Doubt
- III. Restoring Belief

III. Restoring Belief

a. Personal Belief

Thomas in John's Gospel

Scripture	Saying	Quality
<i>Jn. 11:16</i>	“Let us also go, that we may die with him.”	Steadfast & Brave
<i>Jn. 14:6-7</i>	“Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”	Searching & Honest
<i>Jn. 20:25</i>	“Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails... I will never believe.”	Skeptical & Doubtful
<i>Jn. 20:28</i>	“My Lord and my God!”	Surrendered & Faithful

III. Restoring Belief

- a. Personal Belief
- b. Belief without sight, but not without reason

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of **things not seen.**

Hebrews 11:1 ESV



⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. **Though you do not now see him, you believe in him** and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1:8-9 ESV



**Where are you on your journey of
belief?**



Faith Journeys in John

Initial Encounter

Progression

Culmination

Nicodemus

Cautious (3:2)

Subtly defends Jesus (7:50-51)

Prepares Jesus' body for burial (19:39)

Faith Journeys in John

	Initial Encounter	Progression	Culmination
Nicodemus	Cautious (3:2)	Subtly defends Jesus (7:50–51)	Prepares Jesus' body for burial (19:39)
Samaritan Woman	Skeptical (4:9)	Perceives he is a prophet (4:19)	Tells whole town about Jesus (4:39)

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Samaritan Woman	Skeptical (4:9)	Perceives he is a prophet (4:19)	Tells whole town about Jesus (4:39)
Blind Man	Blind/healed (9:7)	Calls Jesus a prophet (9:17)	Worships Jesus (9:38)

*We never move on **from** the gospel;
we move on **in** the gospel.*

J.I. Packer



⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:16 ESV



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