

Some Need More

John 20:24-31

04/19/2020

When Jesus rose from the dead, and with a large amount of fanfare at that, almost everybody mentioned in the gospels had trouble believing it was real. But for some reason we like to pick on Thomas as if he were the only one, calling him “Doubting Thomas”.

“All believers are a strange mixture of doubt and faith!”

- I. Some find it relatively easy to believe
 - A. Positive examples
 - B. Consistent exposure
- II. Some find it somewhat hard to believe
 - A. Negative examples
 - B. Minimal exposure
- III. Some find it extremely hard to believe
 - A. Associates
 - B. Authorities
 - C. Anguish
 - D. Absence
 - E. Assumptions

Assumption 1: An all-powerful God would be able to end suffering.

Assumption 2: An all-loving God would desire to end suffering.

Fact: Suffering exists.

Conclusion: An all-powerful, all-loving God, therefore, does not exist.

Assumption 1: An all-powerful God exists.

Assumption 2: An all-loving God exists.

Fact: Suffering exists.

Conclusion: God must have loving reasons (which he is able to achieve) for permitting suffering.

(If I Were God, I Would End All the Pain, John Dickson)

So What?

- Be honest with yourself, God, and others about your struggle with doubt.
- Be open to the truth and willing to accept the truth when you find it.
- Be diligent to look for the truth and do not give up too quickly or easily.
- Be willing to listen to the Holy Spirit who came to guide us into all truth.

Because he had had more doubts than most, now he had more faith than most. Now Thomas expressed his strong confidence in Christ's deity.

“Doubt is not toxic to faith, silence is.”