

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a brown robe, is seen from behind, looking out over a city at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange and blue, with white clouds. The city below is silhouetted against the bright light of the setting sun.

# Devotional 6

## Don't Let Doubt Deceive You

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James 1:5, 6

*“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.”*

### Introduction

It was the evening of the resurrection. Ten of Jesus' closest friends were huddled together in a room, scared... Judas had already killed himself, and Thomas (also known as Didymus) was not there. The Bible does not say why Thomas was missing, but we know it was only the ten of them. They had barricaded the door, just in case some of the people who had killed Jesus, came to kill them too. They were lonely, confused, dejected... and doubt began to creep into their hearts. What if they were wrong? What if Jesus was a fake? When suddenly Jesus appeared among them. The barricaded door was not enough to keep Jesus out; there He was, standing before them. Sometime later the disciples told Thomas what had happened, and Thomas, the skeptic that he had become, said he would only believe if he could see the nail prints in Jesus' hands and place his hands in the wound on His side. Sometime later

they were all together again and Jesus appeared to them. But this time Jesus focused his attention on Thomas. Jesus gently tells him to, “Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don’t be unbelieving. Believe.” Are you a Thomas? Do you need to see the evidence?

Doubters/skeptics are oftentimes afraid of being misled and are usually aware of people who are not honest... and so they are suspicious of Christians. When sharing the Bible with people who do not believe, it is very important to be honest. In the above incident we see that Thomas was very honest about his feelings.

Let’s look at another example in the Bible, John 6:42 (Easy-to-Read Version):

*“Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’”*

Here we see that the people asking the question had valid reasons to doubt, but like many skeptics and doubters, they answer their own question. When you are interacting with them you must give them objective answers because they have very strong opinions and beliefs on God and the Bible. They believe they know the truth. This mindset is sometimes very difficult to get through to.

In fact, even Jesus’ disciples and closest friends experienced some doubts. We read that even after Christ rose from the dead and met His disciples in Galilee “some doubted.” To reach

these people with the gospel you will need to pray for God to show you exactly how and what to say to them. They need to see the evidence.

### Prayer

Dear heavenly Father, we thank you for your merciful kindness. We thank you Lord that we still have faith but help us to believe in You and to trust You even more. Where we have doubt, please help our unbelief.

*“Have mercy on those who doubt.” – Jude 1:22*