



LET'S VISIT

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STORMS OF DOUBT

Do you remember John Bunyan's novel, "Pilgrim's Progress"? It was first published in 1678. It is the story of man's progress through life to heaven or hell. In the story, Christian and Hopeful pass through the Valley of Ease. Leaving the valley they pass a pillar of salt that was Lot's wife. They are lost and are captured by a giant named Despair. Despair lives in Doubting Castle. Christian and Hopeful are locked in the dungeon.

Often, our life takes some unexpected twists and tragic turns. We become overwhelmed by the storms of doubt. We have our own personal "crisis of faith". We end up passing the time away in "doubting castle". To be sure, some of the choicest sons and daughters of God have been there. The floor is damp with their tears. The walls of that dungeon echo with their prayers. Elijah has been there. John the Baptist has been imprisoned there. If we are honest, you and I will also admit that we have spent time there. It is a trying experience that very few escape. That then, causes us to wonder, is it possible for faith and doubt to co-exist?

In Mark chapter 9 we read of a demon possessed boy. Mark tells us of a desperate father who brought his son to Jesus. This boy's life had been a long, dark night. We are told that his father even brought the boy to Jesus' disciples and they could not heal him. Jesus told the father that everything is possible to the man who believes. The boy's father burst out, and said, I do believe, help me to believe more. The KJV actually reads, "Help thou my unbelief".

Can you see this anguished father watching his son? That father is straining against the storm of doubt in his life. He is desperately trying to find sufficient faith to believe. Yet, he was bold enough to acknowledge his doubt and he asked Jesus to help

him overcome that doubt. I am thankful that God decided to include that candid dialogue in the scriptures for us. You see, sometimes it seems we live among those who have never, not even for once, questioned their faith, they have never doubted. The piety of folks like that makes me feel isolated. It sometimes makes me feel weird, even out of place. Yet, most of us, in anguish have cried out at some point in our lives, "Lord, I believe, help me in my unbelief".

John the Baptist even expressed doubt on one occasion. John's uncertainty was not caused because he never met Jesus. With some people that may be the cause of doubt, but it was not with John. John did more than know Jesus personally. He actually bore witness for Jesus. To be sure, John did not slip into sin nor was he unfaithful. He had rebuked Herod and was thrown into prison for it. From that prison cell he sent men to Jesus to ask if he was the one that should come or do they look for another. John's doubts came about because he was idle, he had too much time on his hands. He misunderstood the mission of Jesus and so he spent time being tossed about in the storm of doubt.

Perhaps the most famous person ever in the storm of doubt is Thomas. That is why we usually refer to him as "Doubting Thomas". Just so you know, in some ways my heart goes out to Thomas. Over the

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In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 -Shreveport - 7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



Try A Little Kindness

For The Pantry. . .

August 2 – Canned Chicken



**July 26, 2026
\$ 2,300.00**

The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"

Storms of Doubt – Continued from page 1

years some have referred to him as "Reflective Thomas" and others as "Cautious Thomas". We actually see Thomas doubting on several occasions. John 11 displays a raw expression of doubt. Lazarus is dead and Jesus is going to Judea. Jesus is facing certain death to go back to Judea and Thomas says, "Let's go also so we may die with him." That's in John 11:16. Then John chapter 14 shows us that Thomas had doubts about the future. Jesus had just told them he was going away and would prepare a place for them. Thomas blurts out "Lord we know not where you are going, how can we know the way". That's when Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth and the life". Then of course there is that occasion we are most familiar with after the resurrection of Jesus. That first time Jesus appeared to his disciples, Thomas was not there. The others told him they had seen the Lord. Thomas said unless he saw the imprints of the nails in his hand and put his finger in the hole in his side, he would not believe. A few days later, Jesus came again and Thomas was there. Jesus told him to reach with his finger and see his hands. Thomas answered and said, "My Lord and My God".

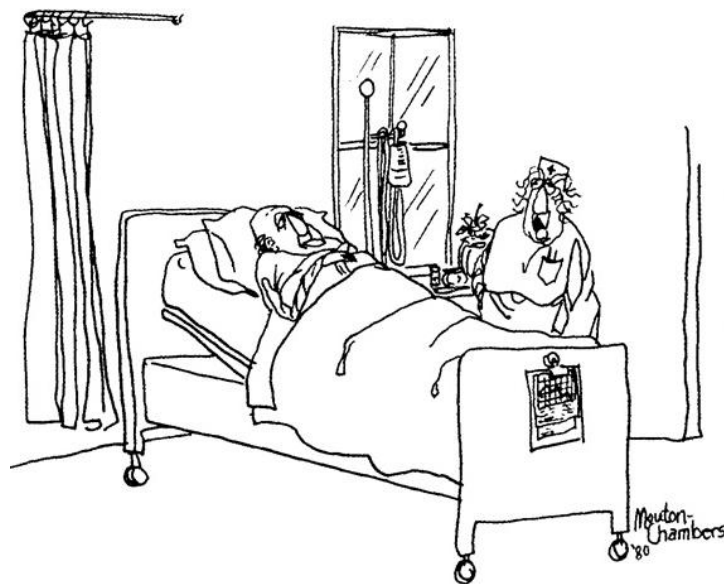
Passing through the storm of doubt, he found a firm faith.

We can do a great job of criticizing Thomas. When we call him "doubting Thomas" it is a term of derision. Yet, we often have our own storm of doubt in our life. We go through our own "crisis of faith. Either you have, or you will, it will come. It will come as sure as the storms of the weather. Often in our season of doubt, our crisis of faith, we suffer alone.

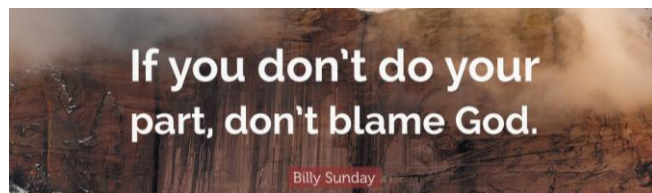
There are times when the storms of doubt overwhelm our lives. When they do, they become our schoolroom. As we work our way through those storms, a new faith is forged. It will come slowly. It is shaped on the mysterious anvil of God's plan. Yet, even in doubt, we must remember the promise of God. "All things work together for good."

tp

On The Lighter Side. . .



Good news preacher! The men had a business meeting and voted to pray for your recovery. If you are interested, the vote was 5 - 4.





We extend our sympathy to **Abbey Perkins** in the passing of her mother Debbie Lynn this past Monday. Services are pending.

OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, Stanley Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Gene Bradshaw, Martha Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Tami Abernathy (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy hospitalized) **Leslie Adams** (friend of Diedra Hughes) being treated for brain cancer; **Peggy Baylor** (Tim Bradshaw's mother) **Debra Clifton** (friend of LaResa Livingston) **Norma Cortez** (Manny Ortiz mother) **Coleen Dickerson** (friend of Cissy Amos with leukemia) **Hugh and Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) **Joyce Fontenot** (Debra Pate's mother) **Pat & William Ford** (cousins to Martha Bradshaw) **Dot Grant** (Friend of Debra Pate) **Suzi Hogan** (Mike Bostick's sister-in-law) **Debbie Lynn** (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) **Albert Magby** (Melonie Bradshaw's father) **Karen McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher) **Doug "Goob" Milford** (cousin of Amanda Molloy) **Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate's uncle); **Heather Simmons Stewart** (Friend of Cissy Amos) cancer; **Max Windham** (Friend of LaResa Livingston) additional cancer treatments.

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

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IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2026

Reserve these dates for important events in the life of our Church for 2026

December 6, 2026 – "No Excuse Sunday"
December 20, 2026 – Annual Christmas Party

Communion Preparation - August
Manny & Brittany Ortiz



September 13, 2026

Make Your Plans To Be Here!
Invite Others To come be our guest!
Let's Have a Great Day to the Glory of God



August 26, 2026

For The Ladies. . .

Please come and join us. . .
Bridal Shower and Brunch
In honor of
Lieza Klein

Saturday, August 22, 2026
Fellowship Hall
Center Church of Christ
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Selections at
Ace Hardware
Lasting Impressions
Amazon
Target



Across The Preacher's Desk

The disciples of Jesus came to him one day and they said, "Lord, teach us to pray". Of all the things they had seen Jesus do, this was the one thing they wanted him to teach them how to do. They had seen Him perform miracles. They had seen Him heal the sick and raise the dead. They had seen Him feed the multitudes. They watched as He turned water to wine. They had also seen Jesus spend time in prayer. Doing so, they asked Him to teach them to pray.

Prayer gives us the strength to live. Through prayer we have an opportunity to serve. We can come to God in prayer and ask God for the boldness to speak for Jesus. Then again, we know that through prayer we can ask for wisdom to guide our ways. Prayer is something that should constantly be practiced in the life of a Christian. We should practice both scheduled prayer and spontaneous prayer. When we have a set time to pray, that can help us develop a habit of prayer. If you remember, Daniel was described as a man greatly beloved and he prayed 3 times a day with his face toward Jerusalem. However, we should not limit prayer to a set schedule or time. Before selecting His apostles, Jesus spent all night in prayer. In a prison cell in Philippi, Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to God. We should pray whenever and however the occasion calls for it.

It is no wonder that the apostle Paul exhorted us to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17) Prayer is a wonderful privilege for the child of God.

it's something to think about.....tlp

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
Will you?**