

A DOUBTING OR DISBELIEVING THOMAS?

Thomas, called Didymus, has been dubbed, the Doubting Thomas by church historians. However, according to our passage, he was dubbed Disbelieving Thomas by Jesus.

Unfortunately modern translators continue to translate (apistos) as doubt – “Stop doubting and believe.” (NIV, John 20:27)

The NAS translates it – “Be (ginomai / p.m.impv.2ps) not (me) unbelieving (apistos), but (alla / contrast) believing (pistos).”

Apistos should be translated unbelieving (alpha privative plus pistos).

There is an important different between doubt and disbelieving when it comes to Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus thinking ((OMCD) and New Man Divine Viewpoint (NMDV) thinking.

**This lesson will study SIX aspects of these differences in this lesson entitled,
“A DOUBTING OR DISBELIEVING THOMAS?”**

1. Doubting suggests uncertainty about what one is asked to believe or to apply according to the revealed will of God.

Doubting could be a factor to either the first half or second half of the faith cycle.

**Hearing
(Rom.10: 17)**

**Completing
(James 2:22)**

**Believing
(Heb.4: 2)**

**Applying
(2 Cor.5: 7)**

One example of doubt in the first half is Rahab and the spies (Heb.11:31; Josh.2:12-14).

An example of doubt in the second half is Abraham offering Isaac (Heb.11:17-19).

2. The Greek word (aporeo) is used for the concept of doubting in the Bible. It was used with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus who had a lot of questions to be answered (Luke 24:13-49).

“But we were hoping (elpizo / impf.a.ind) that it was **He who was going to redeem Israel** (*all our hopes died with Jesus at Golgotha*). Indeed, besides all this (*to compound our misery*), it is the third day since these things happened (*as if this wasn't depressing enough*). But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, and did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels, who said that He was alive. And some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also has said; but Him they did not see (*Jesus has been dead three days and still no redemption for Israel*).” (Luke 24:21-24)

The Greek word (aporeo) is translated perplexed in 2 Cor.4: 8-9 to show that if it is not corrected it will lead to despair – “perplexed, but not in despair (exaporeo / intensive form) utterly without a way.”

3. Jesus addressed these two disciples doctrinal problem by teaching them the correct CBD (Luke 24:25-32).

“O foolish men (*anoetos / irrational, thoughtless*) and slow of heart (*bradeis te kardia / false belief system*) to believe (*tou pisteuo / p.a.infin*) in all that the prophets have spoken. Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory? (YES cross before crown) And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.” (Luke 24:25-27; 1 Cor.15:3-4)

Correct CBD: There would be a spiritual redemption (cross / First Coming) before a political redemption (crown/ Second Coming).

After bible class, these two disciples gave testimony to the Eleven (minus Thomas) to the truth of the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Luke 24:33-36).

4. At this meeting, Jesus addressed the Eleven’s disbelief minus Thomas. They had been taught the CBD prior but had rejected it (Matt.16:21-23; 17:22-23; 20:17-19; 26:1-2, 56; 28:7, 16-20).

“**Why** are (*eimi / p.a.ind*) you troubled (*tarasso / perf.p.ptc / shook up / shut down faith cycle / SIM*), and **why** do doubts (*dialogismos / faulty reasoning*) arise (*anabaino / p.a.ind*) in your hearts?” (Luke 24:38) OMCD

With the Eleven, it was disbelief more than doubt – “*These are the words which I spoke (laleo / a.a.ind) to you while I was still with you*, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” (Luke 24:44; 1 Cor.15:3-4)

Jesus had to teach them milk as babies like Paul in 1 Cor.3: 1-3 (Luke 24:39-43) spoke, **not ghost**, showed hands and feet, and ate). “And while they **STILL** could not believe (*apisteo / p.a.ptc*) for joy (*apo tes chara / to good to be true*) and were marveling.” (24:41)

When Thomas heard about this meeting, he declared, “Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my hands into His side, I will not believe.” (John 20:25)

5. Jesus visited Thomas and ordered him to stop unbelieving and start believing

“And be (*ginomai / p.m.impv.2ps*) not (me) unbelieving (*apistos*), but (*alla / contrast*) believing (*pistos*) (John 20:27).

Thomas needed to believe something regarding the death of Jesus.

This is what he chose to believe: Jesus wasn’t raised from the dead; Jesus wasn’t alive; Jesus wasn’t the Christ; and Jesus wasn’t the Savior of the world. Not only was it not true but it was false. This is the way the Devil deceives us. *What did he believe? (Luke 24:21 crown without cross)*

“But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.” (2 Cor.11: 3) (2 Cor.2: 11; 10:4-5; Matt.16: 21-23)

6. OMCD must be put off and NMDV thinking must be put on by the renewing of the mind with correct CBD (Eph.4: 21-25) Three exegetical infin working off of didasko (taught) (Rom.12: 2; Prov.23: 7).

OMCD shut down the faith cycle. Jesus’ words to Thomas are important to us – “*Because you have seen (horao/ perf.a.ind/ not ghost but resurrected Jesus Christ) Me, have you believed (pisteuo / perf.a.ind)? Blessed are they who did not (me) see (horao / a.a.ptc), and yet believed (pisteuo/ a.a.ptc/ faith cycle).*” (John 20:29)