



Defeating Doubt
Part three of the series, “Encounters: Never the Same”
Pastor Billy Lile
Sunday, April 21, 2024 | Main Campus - 7:30 am, 9:15 am, 11:15 am

*“Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord!’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.’ ²⁶A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’ ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.’ ²⁸Thomas said to him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ ²⁹Then Jesus told him, ‘Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’”
(John 20:24-29 NIV)*

Doubt is often the result of unmet EXPECTATIONS.

Truth to anchor our expectations:

- **In this life, we WILL face trials because of sin.**

*“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because **the days are evil.**” (Ephesians 5:15-16 NIV)*

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33 NIV)

- **God uses trials to strengthen our FAITH.**

*“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith **produces** perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” (James 1:2-4 NIV)*

- **Our best life will come when we see JESUS face to face in Heaven and on earth when He returns.**

“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.” (Philippians 3:20-21 NIV)

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10 NIV)



- **God uses trials to prepare us to MAKE A DIFFERENCE in the world.**

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, **so that** we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NIV)*

What do we do when we doubt?

- **POSITION yourself for an encounter with Jesus.**

“Now Thomas...was not with the disciples when Jesus came....²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them.” (v. 24, 26)

- **SEEK God in His Word.**

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17 ESV)

- **CHOOSE to walk in faith even when you don't understand.**

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6 NIV)