

# Overcoming Your Doubts

when you're having a hard time believing

- Sometimes we experience a “crisis of belief”. Have you ever thought, why doesn't God do something about this?
- In this world of hurt and pain, what hope do we have?
- Mary Magdalene was the first one to the grave – but she was full of doubts and fear. Peter went to the grave, but it seemed his thoughts of denying Jesus slowed him down.
- Life is not perfect – we may feel the pain; perhaps life weighs us down. Is there really any hope?

*We'll learn today that the Power of Jesus presence is more powerful than any of our doubts!*

## 1. Why do I find it so hard to believe?

### ◆ Because I don't personalize the Words of God

- Jesus disciples had a hard time believing
- They “did not understand the Scripture – John 20:9  
Matthew 16:21; Matthew 20:17-19; Matthew 26:31-32

### ◆ Because I don't really think about what I see

John 20:4-8

- Verse 5 “he saw” means “to glance in, to look in.”
  - Do you ever keep your distance from spiritual things to just think about it all?
- Verse 6 “he saw” means “to look carefully, to observe.”
  - Sometimes you see the evidence... but this is not enough to convince you
- Verse 8 “he saw” means “to perceive with intelligent comprehension.”
  - Sometimes you really are trying to believe, but you still hold back.

### ◆ Because I don't expect God's Word to come true

- The followers of Jesus did not expect His words about coming out of the tomb alive to be true
- Are you still looking for what has already been declared to you? - Luke 24:5

### ◆ Because I need more than evidence to really believe

- Peter and John saw the evidence, they heard the evidence, but they still needed an encounter with Jesus to believe
- Only those who actually experience Jesus really believe  
John 20:24-25; Luke 24:9-11; Mark 16:9-11; Mark 16:12-13
- Experiencing angels will not bring peace to your soul – John 20:11-13
- Hearing others experience of Jesus will not change you
- Only experiencing Jesus for yourself changes you - “(Jesus) standing in their midst” – John 20:19

## 2. How can I come to believe?

*You need more than “evidence” to be born again spiritually – you need an encounter with Jesus.*

### ◆ How do you “experience” Jesus?

- Really *listen* to His words... and *believe* Him.

*Jesus says “The Kingdom of Heaven is near, repent, and believe the Good News”*

- *Believe* – His Kingdom is **accessible** to you
- *Repent* - You will need to **realign your life** with God’s ways
- *Believe* – put yourself in position to meet Jesus! Trust that **His death** on the cross paid the penalty of your sins. Believe that **His gift** is forgiveness and Eternal Life.

***Do what He says --- and look for Jesus to show up!***

*These have been written that you might believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and believing you may have life in His name. – John 20:31*