

Pathway To

PENTECOST



BEYOND

ALL DOUBT

Introduction:

Receiving the fullness of the Holy Spirit requires an exceedingly strong faith. How did the disciples' form this kind of belief?



Text: John 20:1-18

**Early on the first day of the week,
while it was still dark, Mary
Magdalene went to the tomb and
saw that the stone had been
removed from the entrance.**



So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb.

**Both were running, but the other
disciple outran Peter and reached
the tomb first.**

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**He bent over and looked in at the
strips of linen lying there but did
not go in.**



Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb.

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He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head.



**The cloth was still lying in its place,
separate from the linen.**

**Finally the other disciple, who had
reached the tomb first, also went
inside.**

**He saw and believed. (They still
did not understand from Scripture
that Jesus had to rise from the
dead.)**

Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying.

As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

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“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.”

At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father.



Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'

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“Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!”



**And she told them that he had said
these things to her.**

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John 20:1-18



Text: John 20:24-29

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.

So 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.”

A 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!”**

**Then 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.”**

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**Thomas said to him, “My Lord and
my God!”**



Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

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John 20:24-29



The disciples' faith had a firm
foundation in **FACTS!**

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FEELINGS are important in pointing us toward God, but they are no more adequate to lead you into a consistent **SPIRITUAL WALK** than they are to form the foundation of an enduring **MARRIAGE.**



The Bible has given us
unassailable:

1. **PHYSICAL** evidence.

2. **EYEWITNESS** evidence.

3. **CIRCUMSTANTIAL**
evidence.



PHYSICAL EVIDENCE,

which included:

1. An **OPENED** tomb, in spite of a Roman seal and guard.

2. A tomb which was **EMPTY** except for **UNDISTURBED**

but now **VACATED** grave cloth and linen.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE,

which included:

3. A specifically SCARRED but LIVING body which possessed supernatural qualities.



EYEWITNESS

EVIDENCE, which included:

1. MARY MAGDALENE.

2. ALL of the DISCIPLES,
including a vocal SKEPTIC.

3. 500 people at one time
(1 Corinthians 15:6).

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Jerusalem was

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*FULL of witnesses to
Jesus' resurrection!*



CIRCUMSTANTIAL
EVIDENCE, in the form of the
extensive **FULFILLMENT** of:

1. **SCRIPTURE**, including the
specific **TIME, LOCATION,**
and **MEANS** of Jesus' death.



CIRCUMSTANTIAL
EVIDENCE, in the form of the
extensive **FULFILLMENT** of:

2. **JESUS'** own prophetic
words regarding his death and
resurrection.



These **EVIDENCES** of Jesus' resurrection were:

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1. What **PERSUADED** Jesus' disciples of His divine **AUTHORITY** and the absolute **TRUTH** of His words.



These **EVIDENCES** of Jesus' resurrection were:

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2. **BELIEVED** by Jesus' disciples, in spite of their own initial **SKEPTICISM**.



These **EVIDENCES** of Jesus' resurrection were:

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3. **BELIEVED** by Jesus' disciples, in spite of the strongest possible **OPPOSITION** of powerful enemies.



These **EVIDENCES** of Jesus' resurrection were:

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4. **PROCLAIMED** by Jesus' disciples, in spite of the strongest possible **PERSECUTION** by those same enemies.



Unshakable, fact-based belief is
the doorway into:

1. **POWERFUL** faith.

2. **CONSISTENT** faith.

3. **EFFECTIVE** faith.

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Conclusion:

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**God has never invited us
to a blind, unreasoning faith.**



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