

Thomas was a doubter. He had to see for himself. Jesus did not condemn him for his disbelief, however he did say to him, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." There is only one way to find God and that is to take a leap of faith and entrust your life to Him, and walk with him daily.

In these challenging times of the pandemic perhaps, understandably, we have doubted our loving God. Naturally we wonder why God has allowed this to happen. We're looking at it the wrong way. God can produce good from the evils of our world, from war, from violence, from failure, from poverty, from loss, from disease. We will always be susceptible to these things in our fallen world, but God never abandons us. Without the brutality of the Romans we would not know the witness of faith of the Christian martyrs. St. Maximilian Kolbe gave his life so that another would be spared during the holocaust. During the attacks of 9/11, many died trying to save the lives of those still inside the World Trade Center. Throughout world history humanity has faced countless challenges, and we will continue to. Only our faith in God will help us to make sense of it. So we mustn't doubt, but believe.

The only way you and I can ever prove love is to have experienced what it is to love and to be loved. So it is with faith. There are only two ways that the existence of a loving God can be proved. The first is by the testimony of others. We can say with certainty that there have been millions of people who have experienced God as a reality in their lives. That is one proof—though it will not satisfy the unbeliever. The most conclusive evidence of the existence of God is to experience Him yourself, as I believe most of us have. All we need do is be humble enough to let God in.

St. Thomas was a doubter, yet he remained with the other apostles, he remained with his community of faith, and he came to believe. Had he left, like so many have left the faith in our current times, he surely would have been lost. The truth is simple, the distractions of our world have become greater and more meaningful than the attraction of faith in God; and that means we believers have work to do. That's our call to evangelization.

When we overcome the road block of doubt, it can cause us to have a deeper and more meaningful faith. In the struggle for meaning, a faithful person learns to doubt his doubts, just as Thomas did. We all have doubts, and there's nothing wrong with that, Jesus is very patient with us, as he was with Thomas.

After Mother Teresa's death, a book of her letters was published revealing that this stalwart of faith was at times deeply tormented about her faith and suffered periods of doubt about God. I find this not troubling but comforting. If these two saints, Mother Teresa and St. Thomas, doubted and came to believe, then so can I, and so can you! May God bless each of you this holy day, and all who love the Lord with simplicity of heart.