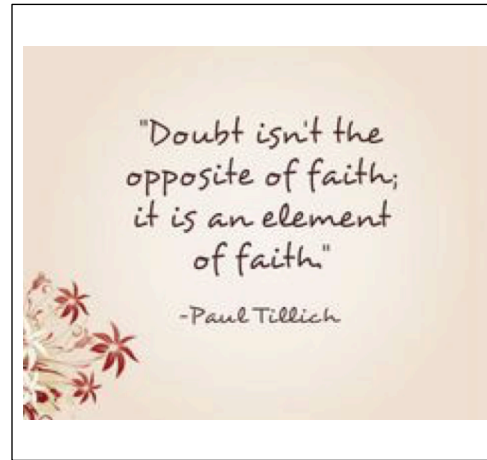


# Cross Words

An Inspirational Message

**John 20:24-29**



## Touching The Wound

Just as ‘the school of hard knocks’ and ‘on the job training’ are often the best opportunities for learning a skill, so too is doubting ones inherited system of faith in order to live by it. Many ancient cultures around the world even had specific coming of age rituals to provide young people with an experience of their own. These rites of passage often included time away from the community or periods of solitude to allow the participants to deeply examine their own beliefs.

In matters of spiritual growth, it is perhaps more important than any other facet of life to know what you believe, why you believe what you do and how far you are willing to go to protect your right to exercise those beliefs. The bible documents the importance of this.

In book after book, we read about people who were raised on the faith of their fathers’ but honed confidence in a faith of their own through experiences and encounters with the divine.

Thomas was no exception. He could not wrap his mind around the resurrection. He could not believe what his friends were claiming. He needed proof, he needed assurance, he needed an experience of his own to provide credibility to the assertions.

Thomas was not afraid to boldly ask for validation and Jesus was glad to give him that space and that proof. It is a beautiful thing when we can rely on the foundational faith structure of our ancestors, but we are not being asked to ignore our common sense. In fact, we are invited to explore it, dismantle it and reconstruct it based on whatever evidence we need. It strengthens the platform of our faith and provides girders for further growth.

Be brave enough to share your doubts if you ever hope to move through them. Give yourself the time and permission to wonder about things you don’t understand. Go ahead; ask to see the wound in His side. He is already waiting to show you.

*Come visit us at First Christian Church, we talk about things like that.*