

# The Appearances: “Persuasion”

*It takes an act of God to cure our unbelief.*

## **John 20:24-29**

*24 But one of the Twelve, Thomas (called “Twin”), was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples kept telling him, “We have seen the Lord!”*

*But he said to them, “If I don’t see the mark of the nails in His hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will never believe!”*

*26 After eight days His disciples were indoors again, and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “Peace to you!”*

*27 Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and observe My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Don’t be an unbeliever, but a believer.”*

*28 Thomas responded to Him, “My Lord and my God!”*

*29 Jesus said, “Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Those who believe without seeing are blessed.”*

## **1) We do NOT want to believe**

- a) Our head gets in the way**
- b) Our Heart is hardened**

## **2) Jesus Accommodates our belief-gaps**

- a) God knows what each of us needs to take a leap.**
- b) Jesus does NOT chide the doubt of his followers**

## **3) Jesus blesses genuine belief**

- a) True belief begins with acknowledgement and submission**
- b) True belief results in a changed life now and forever**

## **1 Peter 1:6-9**

*6 You rejoice in this, though now for a short time you have had to struggle in various trials 7 so that the genuineness of your faith — more valuable than gold, which perishes though refined by fire — may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 You love Him, though you have not seen Him. And though not seeing Him now, you believe in Him and rejoice with inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

**Thomas’ sight gave birth to faith, but one day your faith shall become sight.**