

Do You Believe, Truly Believe?

By Roelf L. Ruffner

“And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have” (Luke 24:38, 39).

Dear reader, we live in world filled with unbelief. It glories in skepticism and cynicism. Many have replaced their faith in the God of the Bible with the false god of pseudo-science or philosophy. What about you, do you truly believe? Are you prepared to be tortured for that faith, chained to a stake and burned alive because you believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God? Will you endure years of ostracism and human friendlessness for making Him your Lord and Master?

Perhaps you honestly don't know and have doubts. Why do many today scoff and ridicule New Testament Christianity? I challenge you to examine the evidence for yourself. You may begin by answering a few questions.

Do you believe that Jesus' tomb was empty on that Sunday morning in A.D. 30? He had been murdered by the Jews and the Romans three days before. His mutilated body was placed in another's tomb wrapped in a linen cloth with 100 lbs. of aromatic spices in its folds (John 19:38-40). No wounded man who suffered a tremendous loss of blood could have recovered and moved the stone that covered His sepulcher (Mark 16:3, 4). Yet even the Roman military guards found it empty after witnessing an angel removed the stone (Mat. 28:2-15). If you admit the tomb was empty you must come to the logical conclusion that Jesus rose from the dead as the Bible affirms.

Do you believe the eye witnesses' testimony recorded in the New Testament that Jesus appeared in the flesh on this earth to many people for forty days after His resurrection (1 Cor. 15:3-9)? Those witnesses included His own brother James who may have doubted His divinity during His earthy ministry (John 7:5). There were a total of over 500 eye witnesses to His eleven recorded appearances; including the Apostle Paul whom He appeared to later. This was not a case of mass hysteria. Jesus appeared at various places and at different times during that period. All witnesses stood by their accounts, no report was ever retracted.

Do you believe Jesus appeared to others in bodily form (Not a spirit or a phantom.) after He arose from the dead and that He could have been touched and felt of? Jesus went so far as to eat broiled fish before His apostles at one of His Sunday evening appearances to prove to them that He was flesh and blood (Luke 24:41-43). A vision, dream, hallucination or even an optical illusion does not do this.

Have you tried to understand the Scriptures concerning Jesus and His resurrection? “And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures” (Luke 24:44-45). We need not believe that this was done miraculously. One does not need a miracle to understand the Bible or a special enlightenment, only an open mind, an open Bible (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Acts 17:11) and a thirst for the Truth. Is the Bible’s account true or not?

Do you believe that there is life after death? “For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God” (Job 19:25,26). Jesus proved it! He came back to this world after being dead for three days. If this is not true the Gospel is but a lie and there is nothing after this life (1 Cor. 15:12-17). We will all be like Rover when we die - dead all over. If it is true then someday all shall be resurrected and knell before Him on that great and terrible Judgment Day confessing Him as Lord (Phil. 2:9-11; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:11-15).

How do you answer these questions, dear reader? Please consider the evidence and come to the undeniable conclusion that Jesus is the Son of God. Then believe Him enough to obey Him (John 14:15) and obtain the remission of sins that only God can give (Luke 24:46-48; Acts 2:37, 38). Believe the word of God, be saved and gain eternity (John 3:3, 5; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 1:23). “Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities” (Acts 3:26).