

John 20:19-31

[1] How do you arrive at the point of faith?

“.. These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

John 20.31

*‘Mary went .. and **saw**’ [1]*

*“John **looked in** at the strips of linen lying there [5]*

*‘He **saw** the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen.’ [6-8]*

*“He **saw** and believed.” [8]*

*‘At this, she turned around and **saw** Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.’ [14]*

*‘I have **seen** the Lord!’ [18]*

*‘After he said this, **he showed them** his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they **saw** the Lord.’ [20]*

*“We have **seen** the Lord!” [25]*

*‘Put your finger here, **see** my hands.’ [27]*

*‘Because you have **seen** me, you have believed.’ [29]*

**[1] How do you arrive
at the point of faith?**

Believe the testimony of the eye-witnesses

**[2] Aren't we disadvantaged because
we are *not* eye-witnesses?**

The appearance of the Lord to Thomas...

*Resolves the doubts of His contemporary
disciple*

Answers the doubts of His future disciples

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

John 20.29

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. NIV

1 Peter 1:8-9

**[2] Aren't we disadvantaged because
we are *not* eye-witnesses?**

**No, we are blessed if we believe in Jesus
without having seen Him**

**[3] How can we know
if our faith in Jesus genuine?**

Thomas recognises at least two things...

The man standing before him is God in human form

The man standing before him is his rightful Lord

*Stop doubting and **believe.**"*

*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.**"*

John 20:27-29

*Stop doubting and **believe.**"*

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God!"*

*Then Jesus told him, "Because you have
seen me, **you have believed; blessed are
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John 20:27-29

**[3] How can we know
if our faith in Jesus genuine?**

**We believe that Jesus is our Lord
and our God**

**[4] Is our faith based
on our own resources?**

In commissioning His disciples, Jesus...

Promises power in the proclamation of the message

Promises power in the response to the message

“Consequently faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”

Romans 10.17

**[4] Is our faith based
on our own resources?**

**No, we respond to the message of Jesus
which itself contains the power by which
we respond**