

THREE BIG WORDS DECEMBER 7, 2016

JOHN 20:24-25

There are three important words that we all have to deal with in life. Besides knowing them, it's important to have them in their proper order. The words are feelings, faith and facts. Doubting Thomas got his name because he put feelings first, then faith and facts. The proper order is facts, faith, feelings.

- A fact is something that is true, or indisputable. Two plus two equal four is an indisputable fact. Whether one believes it or not, feels like it or not, it's a fact. Facts lay the foundation for our faith to rest on. Gravity is a fact.
- Faith believes the facts apart from feelings or emotions. **HEB. 11:1 (AMPC)** – Faith comes by hearing the facts revealed in scripture. It's a fact that God created the world. Evolutionists don't believe it, but that doesn't mean it's not true. Jesus was alive whether Thomas ever believed it or not.
- Feelings are emotional responses, such as joy, sorrow, anger, jealousy or peace. Feelings change, but facts never change. Many things affect our feelings: Words, circumstances, our health, even relationships. Our feelings are not a good foundation to rest our faith on. They can deceive us and misguide us. Sometimes we don't feel saved, but salvation is based on facts, not feelings.

FACTS TO REST OUR FAITH ON

1. God's love for us. **JOHN 3:16**
 - A. God's love for us is not determined by what we believe or feel. It's a fact that I can accept or reject. If we accept the fact as we do two plus two equals four, our feelings will respond with joyful expressions. Saying God doesn't love us because we don't feel that He does, is like saying two plus two can't equal four because I don't feel like it does.
2. We are accepted and forgiven. **EPH. 1:6-7**
 - A. No matter what we believe or feel, Jesus dealt with our sin problem and now we are accepted in the family and forgiven of all sin. Our feelings can't change this fact!
3. We were healed at Calvary. **1 PET. 2:24**
 - A. Saying we don't believe this or feel this doesn't change the fact. God doesn't change; His Word doesn't change; only we can change.
 - B. A paralyzed woman was shown this verse and was healed when she was shown this fact and said "if I was healed, then I am healed."
4. We have resurrection power in us. **ROM. 8:11**
 - A. Whether we believe it or not, it's a fact! We have dwelling in us the same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead.
5. He that is in us is greater than our adversaries. **1 JOHN 4:4**
 - A. God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost in us are greater than any earthly foe! We have power over all the power of the enemy.

CONCLUSION: JOHN 20:26-29 – Thomas didn't accept the facts as truth until his feelings and sight were satisfied. True faith believes without feeling or seeing. We are to put our faith in the facts of God's Word and our feelings will follow. What about us? Is it feeling, faith, facts, or facts, faith and feelings?