

“The Evidence”

Acts 1:3 NASB - *“To these (disciples) He presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.”*

Today, you are here because of God and the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. God loves you so much that He gave Himself as payment for the price of your sin and my sin. He not only gave His life, dying on a cross of crucifixion; He rose from the grave by conquering death and hell. He wasn't just a good man who walked this earth. He was and IS the Son of the Living God. Jesus, the Messiah, lives and we will celebrate His resurrection! We celebrate NEW LIFE!

Today's topic: Proof is found in the evidence. - The Evidence – Part 1 (0:00-1:36)

Just because you believe something is true doesn't make it true! I might believe I can fly. But even if I climb up on the roof of the church and jump off, flapping my arms violently, I will NOT FLY!

“Everyone is entitled to their own opinions, but not their own facts.” ~ Daniel Patrick Moynihan

With every statement given as fact, there is a burden of proof. I remember times as a young boy that my friends and I would make statements about ourselves trying to prove how tough we were. The only problem was, we had to prove it.

The judicial system is based upon presentation of evidence. In fact, when a person is convicted of a crime, it is the prosecutor's responsibility to provide proof of the condemned act.

If someone tells you they love you, do you simply believe them and they can treat you however they want? NO! There is a burden of proof to their statement of love.

Blindly believing something is foolish! If you cannot back up a statement with some kind of proof, it is obviously not true. Just because you say it, or just believe you believe it does NOT make it true.

Proof truly is found in the evidence. - The Evidence – Part 2 (1:37-4:14)

John 20:24-29 HCSB – *“²⁴But one of the Twelve, Thomas, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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!” ²⁶After 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!” ²⁷Then 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.” ²⁸Thomas responded to Him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said, “Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Those who believe without seeing are blessed.”*

Ten of Jesus' disciples experienced and spoke of His appearance. But Thomas did not believe. He needed proof. He wanted evidence. After all, Jesus died on the cross. Thomas saw the dead body of Jesus and possibly helped to prepare the body for burial. And NOW they are telling him that Jesus is alive? I NEED PROOF! SHOW ME THE EVIDENCE!

But then, Jesus showed up JUST TO PROVE HIMSELF TO THOMAS! And God will prove Himself to you. He loves you and wants the best for your life. If you will simply open yourself up to Him, He will show up and prove Himself to you. What do I mean by He will show up and prove Himself to you? – When we confess our sin to God and ask Him to come into our lives, He WILL show up and change your life forever...for GOOD!

Nothing is more evident than a life that is changed by the power of God's Spirit. Even today, as the worship team was singing and worshipping, the presence of the God of heaven above began to fill this room. Did you feel it? Nothing is any more proof than a personal experience with God. ***True blessings are upon those who believe without seeing.***

The devil is the enemy of our soul and he is constantly trying to condemn us for the sins we have committed. But because of the BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST on Calvary's cross, God doesn't see any proof of sin for those who have been forgiven. All He sees is the red blood that has blotted out the sin. Jesus' blood covers us and defends us from sins of the past.

God wants to give you all the proof you need to know that He is real; that He is risen from the dead, He loves you and He wants to transform the troubled life you may be living today and turn it into a life full of meaning and purpose – NEW LIFE! He wants to resurrect your life!

John 20:30-31 NASB – *³⁰And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book: ³¹But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name."*

God wants to provide you with proof, with evidence, today. Test Him. Try Him. Give Him an opportunity to prove Himself to you. "Taste and see that the Lord, He is good!"

CONCLUSION:

Are you a believer? What proof does your life show? Have you given your heart to Him?

Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23

He has proven His love for you by dying on the cross for the sins of every single person to ever live.

1. Confess your belief in Jesus
2. Repent of your sins
3. Invite the Holy Spirit of God into your heart
4. Be baptized in Jesus' name