

## Pulling Back the Curtain

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Many of us enjoy watching the performance of a skilled magician or illusionist. We wonder in amazement, "How did he do that!?" Of course, we are also aware of the magicians' code, that the secret must never be revealed. However, we seem to have a natural craving to see for ourselves how things work.

Many people approach life in the same way. They want every mystery unveiled. Whether from the State of Missouri or not, their motto is, "Show Me." Or, like Dorothy, in the *Wizard of Oz*, they simply must *pull back the curtain* to see.

There is nothing wrong in wanting to see and understand, to unravel the mysteries of life. However, when it comes to our Christian faith, we must recognize that God did not reveal everything. In fact, he *expects* us to live by faith.

Now, this is not a made-up faith or blind faith that has no basis in reality. Rather, it is faith based on God's revelation and his promises.

We must be careful not identify too closely to Thomas who openly declared, "Unless I see I will not believe." Most of us can relate to Thomas. However, he refused to believe his fellow apostles who were *eyewitnesses* of the empty tomb and the resurrected Christ.

A brazen *Show Me* attitude can result in scoffing at God's promises.

The person who demands that the *curtain of mystery be drawn back* may, like Thomas, question the resurrection of Christ.

A person who demands to satisfy a *how-did-he-do-that* curiosity may deny the presence and aid of the Holy Spirit.

People are also tempted to ask, "Why?" when difficulties enter into their life. We instinctively believe that good things should happen to good people, and that evil people should be punished for their evil. While that is not unreasonable, we understand that life is filled with inequities, that is, '*Life is not fair!*'

Yet we often want to know...

Is God testing me?

Is Satan tempting me?

Is my difficulty simply an unfortunate event in the natural course of life?

Now think about it a moment...

Does knowing the source of our difficulties really change the way we should respond?

Jesus allowed Thomas to *pull back the curtain* by seeing and touching his scars. Yet He also rebuked the disciples who did not believe the eyewitnesses. (Mark 16:14)

We can be glad for the testimony of Thomas, the *First Missourian*, but let us not be like him. It is not *seeing* that makes one believe, but *believing* that gives one true sight!

"And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him." (Hebrews 11:6)

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