

"THE CHURCH IS A BODY OF BELIEVERS GATHERED TO WORSHIP GOD WHO HAVE REPENTED OF THEIR SINS, CONFESSED FAITH IN CHRIST ALONE FOR SALVATION, AND HAVE BEEN SCRIPTURALLY BAPTIZED AS A WITNESS TO THE TRUTH OF GOD'S SAVING GRACE IN THEIR LIVES."

.001.tiff

¹⁸ THE DISCIPLES OF JOHN REPORTED ALL THESE THINGS TO HIM. AND JOHN, ¹⁹ CALLING TWO OF HIS DISCIPLES TO HIM, SENT THEM TO THE LORD, SAYING, "ARE YOU THE ONE WHO IS TO COME, OR SHALL WE LOOK FOR ANOTHER?" ²⁰ AND WHEN THE MEN HAD COME TO HIM, THEY SAID, "JOHN THE BAPTIST HAS SENT US TO YOU, SAYING, 'ARE YOU THE ONE WHO IS TO COME, OR SHALL WE LOOK FOR ANOTHER?'" ²¹ IN THAT HOUR HE HEALED MANY PEOPLE OF DISEASES AND PLAGUES AND EVIL SPIRITS, AND ON MANY WHO WERE BLIND HE BESTOWED SIGHT.

.002.tiff

²² AND HE ANSWERED THEM, "GO AND TELL JOHN WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN AND HEARD: THE BLIND RECEIVE THEIR SIGHT, THE LAME WALK, LEPERS ARE CLEANSED, AND THE DEAF HEAR, THE DEAD ARE RAISED UP, THE POOR HAVE GOOD NEWS PREACHED TO THEM. ²³ AND BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO IS NOT OFFENDED BY ME."...

²⁹ (WHEN ALL THE PEOPLE HEARD THIS, AND THE TAX COLLECTORS TOO, THEY DECLARED GOD JUST, HAVING BEEN BAPTIZED WITH THE BAPTISM OF JOHN, ³⁰ BUT THE PHARISEES AND THE LAWYERS REJECTED THE PURPOSE OF GOD FOR THEMSELVES, NOT HAVING BEEN BAPTIZED BY HIM.) —LUKE 7:18-23, 29-30

.003.tiff

I. OUR DOUBTS ARISE WHEN WE STRUGGLE TO RECONCILE OUR EXPECTATIONS WITH OUR EXPERIENCES. (LUKE 7:18-20)

.004.tiff

¹⁸SO WITH MANY OTHER EXHORTATIONS HE PREACHED GOOD NEWS TO THE PEOPLE. ¹⁹BUT HEROD THE TETRARCH, WHO HAD BEEN REPROVED BY HIM FOR HERODIAS, HIS BROTHER'S WIFE, AND FOR ALL THE EVIL THINGS THAT HEROD HAD DONE, ²⁰ADDED THIS TO THEM ALL, THAT HE LOCKED UP JOHN IN PRISON. —LUKE 3:18-20

.005.tiff

- WE DOUBT GOD'S LOVE IN THE LIGHT OF OUR SINFUL FAILURES
- WE DOUBT GOD'S GOODNESS IN THE CRUCIBLE OF HARSH CIRCUMSTANCES
- WE DOUBT GOD'S WISDOM WHEN OBEDIENCE MEETS SUFFERING AND RESISTANCE
- WE DOUBT GOD'S MERCY IN THE PLACE OF ANGUISH AND LOSS
- WE DOUBT GOD'S RULE IN THE MOMENT OF CHANGE AND PAIN
- WE DOUBT GOD'S GRACE IN THE STRUGGLES OF WEAKNESS AND SICKNESS
- WE DOUBT GOD'S JUSTICE IN THE INJURIES OF INEQUITY

.006.tiff

"SOMETIMES MY FAITH IS SHAKEN WHEN MY DREAMS ARE SHATTERED. I WONDER WHERE GOD IS IN THE MIDST OF MY SUFFERING. I CANNOT SENSE HIS PRESENCE. I FEEL ALONE AND AFRAID. MY FAITH WAVERS. I QUESTION WHAT I HAVE LONG BELIEVED. I WONDER WHAT IS REAL, ESPECIALLY WHEN MY PRESENT EXPERIENCE DOES NOT MATCH MY EXPECTATIONS."
—VANEETHA RANDALL RISNER

.007.tiff

2. OUR DOUBTS SUBSIDE WHEN WE REVIEW THE EVIDENCE OF GOD'S GRACE AT WORK.
(LUKE 7:21-23)

.008.tiff

... THAT YOU MAY HAVE CERTAINTY CONCERNING
THE THINGS YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT.

—LUKE 1:4

.009.tiff

³STRENGTHEN THE WEAK HANDS, AND MAKE FIRM
THE FEEBLE KNEES. ⁴SAY TO THOSE WHO HAVE
AN ANXIOUS HEART, “BE STRONG; FEAR NOT!
BEHOLD, YOUR GOD WILL COME WITH VENGEANCE,
WITH THE RECOMPENSE OF GOD. HE WILL COME AND
SAVE YOU.” ⁵THEN THE EYES OF THE BLIND SHALL
BE OPENED, AND THE EARS OF THE DEAF UNSTOPPED;
⁶THEN SHALL THE LAME MAN LEAP LIKE A DEER,
AND THE TONGUE OF THE MUTE SING FOR JOY.
FOR WATERS BREAK FORTH IN THE WILDERNESS,
AND STREAMS IN THE DESERT. —ISAIAH 35:3-6

.010.tiff

“FOR NOW, JOHN HAS
TO ACCEPT THE MESSIAH’S
PLANS FOR HIS LIFE. PLANS
THAT ARE DIFFERENT THAN
WHAT HE ENVISIONED.
HE HAS TO DWELL ON WHAT
HE KNOWS TO BE TRUE
RATHER THAN FIXATE
ON HIS CIRCUMSTANCES.
HE HAS TO REMEMBER
WHO GOD IS AND TRUST
HIM FROM A DARK PRISON.
AND SO IT IS WITH ME...”

—VANEETHA RANDALL RISNER

.011.tiff

“GOD’S WORD IS JUST AS INSPIRED AND INERRANT
IN ITS RESERVATIONS AS IT IS IN ITS REVELATIONS.”

—J. SIDLOW BAXTER

.012.tiff

**“GOD IS TO BE TRUSTED WHEN HIS PROVIDENCES
SEEM TO RUN CONTRARY TO HIS PROMISES.”**

—THOMAS WATSON

.013.tiff

**“FAITH ATTACHES ITSELF
TO GOD’S WORD...
FAITH LOOKS WITH
STEADFAST GAZE, WITH
OPEN AND SINGLE EYES,
TO THE DIVINE PROMISES,
AND HANGS FIRM BY THEM,
AND HAS EVER THENCE
GOOD HOPE OF
DELIVERANCE EVEN IN
THE GREATEST PERILS.
FAITH IS NOTHING ELSE
THAN TRUTH IN THE HEART.”**

—MARTIN LUTHER

.014.tiff

**3. OUR DOUBTS REVISE WHEN DEPENDENCE
REPLACES DEFIANCE.**

.015.tiff

**“CHRIST NEVER FAILED TO
DISTINGUISH BETWEEN
DOUBT AND UNBELIEF.
DOUBT IS CAN’T BELIEVE.
UNBELIEF IS WON’T
BELIEVE. DOUBT IS
HONESTY. UNBELIEF IS
OBSTINACY. DOUBT IS
LOOKING FOR LIGHT.
UNBELIEF IS CONTENT
WITH DARKNESS.”**

—DR HENRY DRUMMOND

.016.tiff

• DOUBTS MAY DISTURB US, BUT THEY WILL
NEVER DISTANCE US FROM GOD'S MERCY AND LOVE

.017.tiff

²⁸I GIVE THEM
ETERNAL LIFE, AND
THEY WILL NEVER PERISH,
AND NO ONE WILL
SNATCH THEM OUT
OF MY HAND. ²⁹MY
FATHER, WHO HAS GIVEN
THEM TO ME, IS GREATER
THAN ALL, AND NO ONE
IS ABLE TO SNATCH THEM
OUT OF THE FATHER'S
HAND. ³⁰I AND THE
FATHER ARE ONE."
—JOHN 10:28-30

.018.tiff

• DOUBTS SERVE TO TEST US AND
MATURE US IN FAITH

.019.tiff

⁵WHO BY GOD'S POWER ARE BEING GUARDED THROUGH FAITH
FOR A SALVATION READY TO BE REVEALED IN THE LAST TIME.
⁶IN THIS YOU REJOICE, THOUGH NOW FOR A LITTLE WHILE,
IF NECESSARY, YOU HAVE BEEN GRIEVED BY VARIOUS TRIALS,
⁷SO THAT THE TESTED GENUINENESS OF YOUR FAITH—MORE
PRECIOUS THAN GOLD THAT PERISHES THOUGH IT IS TESTED
BY FIRE—MAY BE FOUND TO RESULT IN PRAISE AND GLORY AND
HONOR AT THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST. ⁸THOUGH YOU
HAVE NOT SEEN HIM, YOU LOVE HIM. THOUGH YOU DO NOT
NOW SEE HIM, YOU BELIEVE IN HIM AND REJOICE WITH JOY THAT
IS INEXPRESSIBLE AND FILLED WITH GLORY, ⁹OBTAINING THE
OUTCOME OF YOUR FAITH, THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOULS.
—1 PETER 1:5-9

.020.tiff

**“GOD IS BIG ENOUGH TO DOUBT
BUT HE IS GOOD ENOUGH TO TRUST.”**

.021.tiff

ROMANS 8:35-39

.022.tiff