

MY LORD and MY GOD!

Prior to Christ's death and resurrection, no one really understood the gospel or how God would provide salvation for the world. Even the disciples did not get it. The disciple Thomas was a believer in the Old Testament sense of the word (cf. John 6:70), but until he saw Christ risen from the dead, he did not have a New Testament faith (Jn. 20:25).

God was patient. But once Christ is risen from the dead God now **COMMANDS** that a saving faith believe in the progressive revelation that climaxes in the truth of the risen Christ. This is a completed New Testament faith.

Acts 17:30–31 (NKJV)

30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

Romans 10:9 (NKJV)

9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

The resurrection is part of progressive revelation, and it is part of the full gospel message as seen in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. This side of the cross God demands that NOW people believe in the resurrection in order to be saved. Thomas needed to move from an Old Testament Faith to a New Testament saving faith.

All the true believers prior to the cross (but living after the time of the resurrection) did make this transition – but as we see with Thomas it involved a process.

With Thomas, Christ unmistakably made the issue one of BELIEF versus UNBELIEF. The HCSB translates Jesus in John 20:27 as saying, "***Don't be an unbeliever, but a believer.***" Thomas needed to transition all the way to being a full-fledged New Testament believer. This was the challenge!

It didn't take Thomas long! Instantly upon seeing the risen Christ, Thomas in John 20:28 cried out, "***My Lord and my God!***" There is no evidence that he felt the print of the nails or put his hand into Christ's side. In fact, in the next verse Jesus says, "***Thomas, because you have seen Me, you***

have believed.” Evidently, just SEEING was enough. Thomas needed no more proof!

But out of this came what defines the nature of a true saving faith. Thomas said, **“My Lord and my God!”** and Jesus said, **“you have believed.”** This is what it truly means to believe in Jesus.

It’s not enough to just say you believe, it has to be real! It has to be personal! Note the word **“my”** as in **“MY Lord and MY God!”** Until one recognizes Jesus as personal Lord and God they do not have a saving faith.

This is the climactic illustration of saving faith in the gospel of John – the gospel of BELIEF! It is the greatest apostolic confession of faith in the New Testament along with Peter’s confession in Matthew 16:16 that Jesus is **“the Christ, the Son of the living God.”**

This is one of the strongest statements on the Deity of Christ found in the New Testament. In saying, “My Lord and my God” Thomas used not just one, but two titles denoting the deity of Christ. There is a DOUBLE emphasis here that makes it emphatically clear that Jesus is God!

Lord literally means MASTER – one who has AUTHORITY over.

Luke 6:46 (NKJV)

46 “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”

When used of the risen Lord the title “Lord” always carries with it the connotation of Deity. It is the sense of God-Master! Lord when used of the risen Christ invariably means God-Master. Thomas was saying to Jesus, **“My God-Master!”**

All TRUE believers have come to recognize Jesus as their personal God-Master. This is the essence of a LORDSHIP faith which is a true saving faith.

Until one calls on Jesus as “My Lord and my God!” they are NOT saved! Thomas saw and believed, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (John 20:29). But all who are true believers come to this same point of believing on Jesus as Lord-God.

Romans 10:13 (NKJV)

13 For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

