

Week 16
103/262

Transforming Daily
“ . . . why do doubts arise . . . ”
Luke 24:38

Have you ever had doubts? I'm not necessarily speaking of your personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, although that does happen to some believers from time to time. The late Adrian Rogers used to say, "I have doubted my call to ministry at times, but never my salvation." Although not excluding doubts about your relationship with God, I'm referring to doubts in general? Generally speaking, doubts usually arise for lack of tangible proof and/or understanding.

Can you imagine after having walked and talked with Jesus in person, that is, in the flesh, after participating in and observing His miracles tangibly, that one could still have doubts about who He is and what He had done? The reason the early disciples and unbelievers had doubts concerning who Jesus was and what He did was reason itself. When doubts are expressed in Scripture, it is usually because reason dominated the faith of those in the passage. Such is the case in Luke. After Jesus was crucified, buried and raised from the grave, He was seen by many. He walked with them and talked with them. Jesus even ate what they were eating. The response by some to His presence was that He must be a spirit.

One of the implications from the text is that the believers were not exercising faith, but reason. As a matter of interest, the disciples might have been practicing a little superstition too. They perceived Christ to be a spirit not literally the slain Lamb of God that they had just a few days earlier seen crucified and buried. It is said that perception is more real than reality. A person reacts according to their perceptions, which translates, seeing is believing (or not). It wasn't until Jesus opened their understanding that they saw Him and heard what He was saying (v.45).

It is the same for the 21st century believer. We are challenged to exercise faith over reason. However, there is nothing more reasonable than faith. Just as the early believers, our understanding has to be opened, and Christ does so through the power of the Holy Spirit. When circumstances don't seem reasonable regarding family, finances or physical wellbeing and safety, the natural reaction is fear. Scripture says that God did not give us the spirit of fear, but of love, power and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7). Fear is fed by doubt, understanding eliminates doubt, and faith dispels fear. So why do you think doubts arise?