

**1 Corinthians 15:14 (NKJV)** And **if** Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty **and** your faith *is* also empty.

**Matthew 28:1–4 (NLT)** Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.

**Matthew 28:5–8 (NLT)** <sup>5</sup> Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. <sup>7</sup> And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you.” <sup>8</sup> The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel’s message.

[Perhaps the biggest test of our faith is how we respond to trials and tragedy.](#)

**Matthew 28:8–10 (NLT)** <sup>8</sup> The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel’s message. <sup>9</sup> And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “**Don’t be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there.**”

**Matthew 28:11 (NLT)** As the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and told the leading priests what had happened.

**Luke 24:11 (NLT)** But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn’t believe it.

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**John 20:3–9 (NLT)** <sup>3</sup> Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. <sup>8</sup> Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed—<sup>9</sup> for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead.

If you have doubts, take them to Jesus.

**John 20:8–9 (NLT)** <sup>8</sup> Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed—<sup>9</sup> for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead.

Start with belief. Allow the Jesus to fill in the details over time as you grow in Him.

**John 20:10–15 (NKJV)**<sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.<sup>11</sup> But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down *and looked* into the tomb.<sup>12</sup> And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.<sup>13</sup> Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."<sup>14</sup> Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus.<sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, "**Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?**" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

**John 20:16–17 (NKJV)** <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "**Mary!**" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, "**Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'**" "

**Luke 24:12 (NKJV)** But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.

**Mark 16:6–7 (NKJV)** <sup>6</sup> But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. <sup>7</sup> But go, tell His disciples—**and Peter**—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.”

**Luke 24:33–34 (NLT)** <sup>33</sup> And within the hour they were on their **way back** to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, <sup>34</sup> who said, “The Lord has really risen! **He appeared to Peter.**”

**1 Corinthians 15:5–6 (NLT)** <sup>5</sup> **He was seen by Peter** and then by the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.

We grieve the Cross on Good Friday; we celebrate the empty tomb on Resurrection Sunday.

**John 15:13 (NLT)** *There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.*

**Hebrews 2:14–15 (NLT)** <sup>14</sup> Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. <sup>15</sup> Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.

**John 10:10 (NKJV)** *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come **that they** may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.*