



A fire in the fog.

If there were no doubts, no questions, there would be no faith.

We seem to generally place doubt and faith on opposite sides of a spectrum. When we do this we lose the light in faith and the hope in doubt.

I think about Thomas. It is through him that I most easily find my way towards what I call faith.

As the one who was able to voice his doubts about the return of Jesus, we can forget what it takes for someone in his position to be honest about that. Thomas followed Jesus for years. Thomas was ready to follow Jesus to the death. This is the Thomas I see when he admits that he is struggling with it.

I also think of the stories of people who have “lost their faith” at some point. Often it is claimed that they didn’t have enough faith, or that they didn’t believe enough. That’s why they lost it. But I think it might be more accurate to go with Peter Rollins and say that they believed too much.

Letting our beliefs, our faith drive us forward without any fear or regard of what this pursuit might cost us. And it cost us. We can end up in a fog, in a sea of grey ambiguity. Something that once seemed so certain, something that we thought we understood, seems to abandon us. Instead we are embraced with new doubts and uncertainty. Confronted with things that don’t seem to add up. Questions that end up leading to more questions. What was once so clear is now blurry and obscure, only faintly resembling what we thought it was.

Thomas had doubt. He also had a faith that reaches through and with that doubt towards something that I don’t think can be grasped through certainty and absolute understanding. There was something within Thomas that enabled him to admit that there was doubt and enabled him to show up to a gathering with the rest of the disciples. He didn’t flee or hide. And Christ met him there.

“And my hands are open, reaching out
I'm learning how to live with doubt
I'm learning how to lean into the grey
'Cause I've had enough of black and white
I'll find another way and I will lean into the grey
I'll lean into the grey” - Thrice

When we bury our doubt rather than acknowledging it, we rob ourselves of the light and hope that may come and meet us in the midst of fog.



continue the conversation questions:

Have there been times where life has seemed to have more questions than answers?

How did you respond to those times?

Is it hard to see or even think about God in those times?

What do you think of Jesus's response to Thomas and his doubts?