WHERE IS THOMAS?\*

"Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails and put my finger into the print of the nails and thrust my hand into his side, \*I will not believe\*"

John 20:25.

The above statement is credited to Apostle Thomas who was one of the disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

After Jesus resurrected, the bible recorded that He appeared to the disciples but Thomas was not There, so when others narrated the story to him, he uttered the above statement

To this day, Thomas is mostly remembered for doubting the resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

The name Thomas has now become a synonym for anyone who exercise doubt in respect of anything.

Perhaps it's a bit unfair and harsh on the part of Thomas that a singular incident of doubt has tagged his name negatively for life.

There are many other instances where other disciples also doubted;

When Philip told Nathaniel : \*"we have found him of whom Moses in the Law and the prophets wrote about: Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph"\*

Nathaniel responded: " \*Can anything good come out of Nazareth?\*

He doubted the possibility of Nazareth producing anything good like JESUS.

The essence of this message is to establish the truth that God expects us to have \*faith\* in him ,His words and not doubt.

Jesus was not with them when the incident of Thomas happened, but being \*God\* he knew and came back to them simply because of Thomas.

He said to him:

" \*Thomas because you have not seen me, you did not believe; blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed".\*

John 20:29.

Not very much was captured about Thomas after the incident.

Thomas' Spirit has lingered on to this era and is spreading even in believers.

They know the word, hear the Word, but when the word is being manifested right in their eyes, they fail to come to terms with it.

Chuck Templeton former close friend of late Billy Graham said: \*"But Billy it's simply not possible any longer to believe for instance the biblical account of creation".\*

Same way some people are now engaging in unfruitful debate about payment of tithe and offering.

My stand about it is simple, tell me anything, so far it is written in the bible; \*I stand by the Word of God.\*

The bible is the standard for all believers. It's our benchmark in knowing whether we are on the right path.

Mind you, it is the \*complete bible\*: both the Old testament and the new testament.

"God has \*chosen\* the foolish things of this world to confound the wise".

\*1 Cor 1:27\*

In most cases the word of God does not make sense to human mind.

That's why God said:

\*"My thoughts are not your thoughts neither are your ways my ways"\*

Isaiah 55:8.

When you use your reasoning in trying to verify the word of God you will not get hold of it.

Templeton was also credited to have said:

"It was \*intellectual suicide\* to not question the bible and go on preaching God's words as authoritative".

\*Experience\* in the work of God also has its own limitation of the knowledge of God.

Our God is \*sovereign\*, He only discloses to anyone how much HE wants you to know.

When word of God came to Elijah to go stand on the mountain before the Lord;

The bible said the wind blew, an earthquake occurred, fire came down; but God was not in any.

The same Elijah had just called on God to appear by fire and God responded.

"The Lord that answers by fire; let Him be God"

\*1 Kings18:24\*

He thought he knew everything about God, but God stunned him.

\*Prophecy\*: God is about to stun the \*doubters\* in the Church of God; many will not believe their eyes and ears about what God will do.

Who your father was will not be considered at that time.

"I never saw this coming, how can that be, had I known" will be some of the sentences people will say thereafter.

\*Prayer\*: The Almighty God will spare our lives to witness it in Jesus name. 🙏🏼

The bible recorded how Peter was rescued from the prison by an Angel after prayer was made without ceasing of the Church to God concerning Peter.

Surprisingly, when Peter got to the house of Mary; where they were all gathered praying for his release, they did not believe Peter was the one knocking despite hearing his voice.

\*Acts 12:1-16\*

I guess, they expected his release or escape from prison to be more dramatic or supernatural.

Fellow believers, when God answers our prayers or when long standing words of prophecies are fulfilled before our very eyes, they usually appear so negligible that it could pass you bye unnoticed.

Jesus said: "Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.

\*Luke 4:24\*.

"is he not the son of Joseph the Capenter"?

God makes His things appear so simple and inconsequential.

Jesus Christ said:

"O fools and slow of heart to believe all that the Prophets have spoken"

\*Luke 24:25.\*

Unbelief and \*doubting\* spirit are part of human nature.

Jesus said to the man whose son had a dumb spirit and the disciples could not cast out the spirit ": \*If you can believe; all things are possible to him who believes"\*.

The man replied:

\*"Lord, I believe but help my unbelief".\*

Mark 9:24.

Eventually, when Jesus stepped in the matter, the spirit left the boy

\*Mark9:17-27\*

Without any doubt, everyone of us has a measure of doubt in us. In fact some doubt themselves.

In contrast, \*faith\* is what we should have.

\*"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen".\*

Hebrew 11:1

John the Baptist, ordained by God as the fore runner of Jesus; after he had baptised Jesus and attested that Jesus is the awaited messiah; doubted when he was put in prison.

He sent words to Jesus:

\*"Are you the one who is to come or should we expect someone else"?.\*

\*Matthew 11:3\*

Not surprising though; even Zechariah: his father doubted the conception of his son: John.

\*Luke 1:5-22\*

"But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind".

\*James 1:6\*

Such a person (doubter)should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

\*James 1:7\*

\*PRAYER\* : Father, please help my unbelief; let the spirit of Thomas be far away from me in Jesus name .🙏🏼

Perhaps, your own doubt is about the second coming of Jesus, then you are heading to \*hell\* without doubt.

\*John 3:36\*:

"Whosoever does not believe in the Son of God shall not see life; but the wrath of God awaits him.

Repent now and be saved.

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\*JESUS REIGNS.\*