

John 20:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

Analysis

Christ's response to Thomas creates a beatitude: 'blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed'. This includes all subsequent believers who trust based on testimony, not sight. Faith based on evidence (Thomas's demand) is legitimate but lesser than faith resting on the word of Christ. This concludes John's purpose statement (20:31)—his Gospel provides sufficient testimony for belief without physical sight of the risen Christ.

Historical Context

Thomas's absence eight days earlier (20:24) meant he missed the first resurrection appearance. His skepticism ('except I shall see...I will not believe') represented empirical demands for proof. Jesus accommodated Thomas yet commended greater faith.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Is your faith dependent on feelings and experiences, or grounded in God's Word?
2. How does this verse encourage believers who doubt or struggle with faith based solely on Scripture?

Interlinear Text

λέγει	αὐτῷ	ό	Ἰησοῦς	Ὅτι	ἐώρακάς	με	Θωμᾶ
saith	unto him	G3588	Jesus	because	thou hast seen	me	Thomas
G3004	G846		G2424	G3754	G3708	G3165	G2381

πιστεύσαντες	μακάριοι	οἱ	μὴ	ἰδόντες	καὶ
thou hast believed	blessed	G3588	are they that have not	seen	and
G4100	G3107		G3361	G1492	G2532

πιστεύσαντες
thou hast believed
G4100

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 1:8 (Faith): Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

2 Corinthians 5:7 (Faith): (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Hebrews 11:1 (Faith): Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:27 (Faith): By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

Luke 1:45 (Faith): And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

John 20:8 (Faith): Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

John 4:48 (Faith): Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

Hebrews 11:39 (Faith): And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: