

HELEN SANDERS
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FROM FEAR TO FAITH

The disciples were shut away in a room for fear of the Jews. Jesus had been betrayed by one of their own, Judas, and perhaps more betrayals were to come. Peter had wept because he had denied the Lord. Even though he told Jesus he would never deny Him, fear caused him to do just that. Now Fear gripped at all the disciples' hearts. Their leader, the one that had been crucified, was dead and buried. All hope was lost. They had expected a different ending.

Then, just as quickly as light entering through a crack in the wall, Jesus stood in the midst of them. He spoke, **"Peace, be unto you."** (John 20:19) He showed them his hands that had been pierced by the nails, and his side where the spear had pierced him. They did not recognize him, but this was proof that it was "Him." Jesus was alive!

He spoke again [John 20:21] **"Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."** He then breathed on them to receive the Holy Ghost. Then He was gone as quickly as He came.

Their fear turned into faith. The lost hope was recovered, and a new boldness came upon them because He had breathed on them, and they were filled with the Holy Ghost [verse 22]. Thomas was not with them when this happened and did not believe what the disciples told them about Jesus.

Then, Jesus appeared again and spoke with Thomas. Jesus spoke with him, and Thomas believed. John 20:28 shows the change in him also, when he declared, **"My Lord and my God."**

Yes, Jesus is Lord, and yes, He is God. This changes the fearful into the faithful. It changes everything. The once fearful disciples became powerful witnesses unto death for Jesus. The once denying Peter became the force that pulled the other ten together.

Is there fear in your life? Let faith rise from within you like it did for the disciples and become a powerful witness for Jesus. Fear cannot exist where there is faith.