

things. God cannot be seen by mortal man. Thomas saw a human being, whom he acknowledged to be God, and said: *My Lord and my God*. Seeing, he believed; looking at one who was true man, he cried out that this was God, the God he could not see.

What follows is reason for great joy: *Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed*. There is here a particular reference to ourselves; we hold in our hearts one we have not seen in the flesh. We are included in these words, but only if we follow up our faith with good works. The true believer practises what he believes. But of those who pay only lip service to faith, Paul has this to say: *They profess to know God, but they deny him in their works*. Therefore James says: *Faith without works is dead*.

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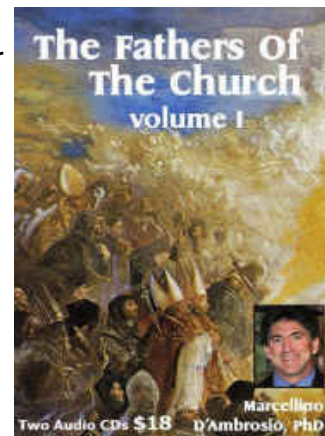
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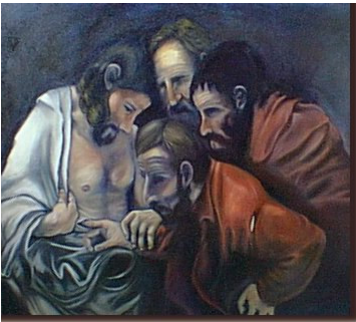




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## ***Doubting Thomas***

***St. Gregory the Great***  
***Early Church Father & Doctor of the Church***



***Taken from a homily by St. Gregory the Great (Hom. 26, 7-9: PL 76, 12010-1202), pope (d. 604 AD), this excerpt is used in the Roman Office of Readings for the Feast of St. Thomas, the Apostle, on July 3. Another certain thing that is known of St. Thomas' life after Pentecost though, he is said to have subsequently preached the Gospel to the people of India. Since the fourth century the celebration of the transference of his body to Edessa has been commemorated on July 3.***

*Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. He was the only disciple absent; on his return he heard what had happened but refused to believe it. The Lord came a second time; he offered his side for the disbelieving disciple to touch, held out his hands, and showing the scars of his wounds, healed the wound of his disbelief.*

Dearly beloved, what do you see in these events? Do you really believe that it was by chance that this chosen disciple was absent, then came and heard, heard and doubted, doubted and touched, touched and believed? It was not by chance but in God's providence. In a marvellous way God's mercy arranged that the disbelieving disciple, in touching the wounds of his master's body, should heal our wounds of disbelief. The disbelief of Thomas has done more for our faith than the faith of the other disciples. As he touches Christ and is won over to belief, every doubt is cast aside and our faith is strengthened. So the disciple who doubted, then felt Christ's wounds, becomes a witness to the reality of the resurrection.

Touching Christ, he cried out: *My Lord and my God.* Jesus said to him: *Because you have seen me, Thomas, you have believed.* Paul said: *Faith is the guarantee of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen.* It is clear, then, that faith is the proof of what can not be seen. What is seen gives knowledge, not faith. When Thomas saw and touched, why was he told: *You have believed because you have seen me?* Because what he saw and what he believed were different

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