

# Captured By His Word

## Infallible Proof

*" To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: " Acts 1:5 KJV*

The war is on and we are under attack. Many of our long-held beliefs are being questioned and we know that Satan is behind this evil and wicked scheme because he is seeking to make us doubt the faith that was once delivered to the saints (Jude 3). We are swiftly becoming a world where fiction is introduced as fact and we no longer think for ourselves because we willingly receive whatever is fed to us without question or investigation; not seeking to find out whether or not the doctrine is true. However, in our text, in the time between the resurrection and the ascension, we will see that in that crucial forty-day period, that truth is on our side because we have infallible proof that Jesus is alive and that his ministry through the Holy Ghost continues.

The word infallible is of Latin origin (meaning "not to deceive") and is a term with a variety of meanings related to knowing truth with certainty. It is defined as "absolutely trustworthy or sure; un failing in effectiveness or operation; certain." It also means to be reliable. The word proof is defined as "evidence sufficient to establish a thing as true, or to produce belief in its truth." It is simply evidence that is so complete and convincing as to put a conclusion beyond reasonable doubt. Witness is defined as "an individual who, being present, personally sees or perceives a thing, a beholder, spectator, or eyewitness."

The book of Acts was written by Luke, the beloved physician, to a Theophilus, which in the Greek means "Friend of God". This book proposes to show the continuation "of all that Jesus began both to do and teach." according to Acts 1:1. As the book of Acts opens, Jesus is risen, and the word is getting out. To begin our series of infallible proofs, let's look at Matthew, the tax collector's account in chapter 28. Here's how the story goes....

In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the sepulcher. The angel of the Lord descended

from heaven and knowing they were seeking Jesus, told them, "He is risen." He told them to come "see" (which is a key word) the place where the Lord lay. After that he told them to go "tell" (another key word) the disciples that Jesus is risen and that they would see him in Galilee. As the two Mary's went on their way, they met Jesus and he greeted them and they worshipped him. He also told them to go tell the disciples about him and to meet him in Galilee. Proof #1, we have the eyewitness accounts of the two Mary's. They saw Jesus and they ran and told it. It is infallible and unmistakable.

What about Mark's account? In Mark 16:1-18, again we have the account of Jesus' appearance to the two Mary's but

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this time Salome is on the scene. This time the women were told to go tell the disciples and Peter that Jesus is risen. However, they were sorely amazed and afraid that they didn't tell anybody. Well, it was Mary Magdalene, whom Jesus had cast seven devils out of, who saw Jesus. She went and told the disciples that she had seen Jesus but when they "heard" that He was alive and she had seen him, they believed not. Even two disciples who had been walking in the country saw Jesus. They ran and told the rest of the people, and none of them believed either. After these sightings, Jesus also appeared to his disciples as they sat eating and upbraided them or chastised them for their unbelief when it had been told to them that others had seen Jesus. If anybody should have believed, it should have been his disciples. Nonetheless, we have more proof, more eyewitnesses.

Well, Doctor Luke has his perspective too. In Luke 24 we again have the account of Peter (in much greater detail), who when seeing the grave clothes, departed from the sepulcher wondering in himself at that which was come to pass. Let's not forget the Emmaus road account where two disciples, one of which was Cleopas, were talking about what they had heard about Jesus and his resurrection when Jesus appeared before them, but they did not recognize him. It was only after that he sat and broke bread with them and began to open up the scriptures to them that their eyes were opened and then Jesus vanished away. Again, as He appeared amid his disciples, they were terrified or affrighted because they believed that they had seen a ghost. He encourages them in Luke 24:39 to "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have." Even at this they did not believe for joy. He

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sat down to eat with them a meal of broiled fish and honeycomb to further prove to his followers that he had been resurrected. More proof, more eyewitnesses!

Last, but not least, is the account in the Gospel of John. In John 20 we have the unbelief of Thomas. When told of the resurrection of Jesus, Thomas refused to believe without seeing. He wanted bodily proof. He emphatically said unto the disciples in John 20:25, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of his nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe." How many of us have gone down that road before? How many of us have said of what the Lord has promised us, "I won't believe it until I see it?" Well, Thomas' doubts were removed eight days later when Jesus appeared before the disciples again and this time Thomas was with them. Jesus spoke to Thomas in verse 27 saying, "Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand and thrust it into my side: be not faithless, but believing." Right here, Thomas was delivered because in the next verse he says, recognizing who Jesus is, "My Lord and my God". If for some reason you are not totally

convinced, Paul summarizes the sightings in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 as he addressed some errors concerning the resurrection. "He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of about five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James, then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as one born out of due time." Lest we forget, He was seen in various places: Jerusalem, Galilee, Olivet. Some on the shore, some on the mountain, others in the house.

What was the effect of these infallible proofs? The ministry of the apostles was strengthened. During that forty-day period of Jesus' post-resurrection ministry, our risen Savior spoke to the apostles of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. In other words, He instructed the disciples concerning the work they were to do and the doctrine they were to preach and how to witness and evangelize the great facts of Christianity. He spoke as one not just acquainted with the Kingdom of God but as one who will come and establish his rule and reign on earth. All of this was done in order to prepare them to receive the Holy Ghost. As we sit at the feet of Jesus, we need to see to it that we speak as those who "know the certainty of the things." Don't be fooled; don't be deceived. The belief in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead separates Christianity from all other religions. Through His resurrection, God wants to give us proof positive that we may believe and trust Him. If we choose not to believe, it is not for lack of evidence. For there is abundant evidence of the truth of the resurrection. From His appearances, to the various signs and wonders, to the very words our Lord spoke concerning His passion, and finally showing Himself alive. These proofs were not probable, and neither were they circumstantial.

So, what is the Lord saying to us? He is saying loud and clear, "I am the resurrection!", "I am He." There is no other! Don't let false doctrines stop you or make you stumble. We have truth on our side. WE have a resurrected Savior. He's saying, "Believe me! Trust me!" We know that the war is on and the battle is fixed, and we have infallible proof, proof beyond a reasonable doubt because we have the testimonies that come flooding in every day. So, let us not walk with hung down heads but let us walk with a certainty, let us walk like those who know that Christ is risen and that our preaching is not in vain!