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## Monday

[John 12:16](#) These things His disciples did not understand; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written of Him."

"Stupid" may be too strong as a descriptive word, but the disciples really revealed a lack of understanding and a lack of faith during the final days of Jesus' life. They were missing most every point of His teaching. That is why when He was arrested, tried, condemned, and executed, they bugged out! Lying, hiding, and denying became their coping strategy. Here's the thing — I am greatly encouraged by their lack of courage, their foolish behavior, and their lack of understanding. See, if God is choosing people like that as His disciples, then I fit in! God never judges His followers by where they start. He focuses upon what they can become as they yield themselves to the Savior.

## Tuesday

[John 20:25](#) "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

It is easy to get discouraged. Thomas started out with the boldest of statements in defense of the Lord *Pure courage!* In fact he seemed to be the only one who was 'getting it.' When Jesus set himself toward Jerusalem and toward His death, Thomas said, "Let us also go, so that we may die with Him." But after the Lord's death his discouragement reigned. He did not show up when the others gathered. He did not believe when the resurrection was reported. But when He saw the Lord everything changed. With his focus fixed upon the resurrection Thomas became a world changer. So will you, when you fix your faith upon Jesus' resurrection.

## Wednesday

[John 15:5](#) "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."

Vibrant faith fills the follower of Jesus who persistently practices devotion in God's word, worship with God's people, and witness in God's mission. Without the fuel of these three practices the flame of faith weakens, the heat of passionate discipleship wanes. People do not so much lose their faith as they lose their fuel. The faith remains, but weak and restless. How do you maintain strong, growing faith, faith that moves mountains, faith that secures peace, faith that fortifies life? You fuel your faith with devotion, worship, and witness. Fuel it and it will flame.

## Thursday

[Rev. 3:16](#) 'So because you are lukewarm, I will spit you out of My mouth.'

The world is not persuaded by lukewarm disciples. But those who feel the impact of the resurrection in their souls, the forgiveness of sin, and a fearless life, these will make an impact upon the world. People have a hopeless and lackluster existence. One day only fear and travail will be their companions, then they will look for an answer, for hope. Will they see it in you? Our faith has been robbed by the lying thief, who kills, steals, and destroys. Where do you go to ignite your faith? Not so much to the cross, but to the empty tomb. You need the flame of *after-Easter-faith!*

## Friday

[John 20:29](#) Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."

*After-Easter-faith* builds upon itself, growing stronger the more it is exercised, tested, and relied upon. As you focus upon the resurrection you are strengthened to move out in mission, to risk new opportunities for witness, to become involved in living *for Jesus*. As you stretch your faith in mission it grows stronger. It becomes a cycle of faith strengthening. Be warned; the opposite is true as well. Failing to exercise your *after-Easter-faith* will make you weak and spiritually anemic. So determine to step out in the venture of faith letting God build you up and give you abundant life!