



INSIDE THIS  
MONTH'S ISSUE:

## DEAL WITH YOUR THOMAS !

Written by IMA-OBONG EFFIONG IGANI-TIMOTHY

**“Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.” – Proverbs 27:17**

As God ushers us into a season of newness, He now turns our attention to something equally important—our relationships. Not everyone in your life will think like you, act like you, or walk like you. Some will challenge you, stretch you, question you, and even frustrate you. These are your “Thomases.”

Just like Thomas in Scripture, they may not follow the crowd; they may ask difficult questions; they may see things differently. Yet Jesus did not push Thomas away—He embraced his difference and revealed Himself to him.

This month, God is calling us to deal with our Thomas—to appreciate the beauty in difference, to grow in patience, to love beyond preference, and to recognise that diversity is part of His design. Some people in your life are not obstacles; they are instruments meant to sharpen you.

May the Holy Spirit help us see others through the eyes of Christ.

## INTRODUCTION

I come from a large family of eleven, yes, eleven, and as the last child, I grew up surrounded by a fascinating mix of personalities, opinions, and temperaments. Each person had their own rhythm, their own voice, and their own way of seeing life. It was like living in a world of eleven different nations, each with its own laws, customs, and languages! And believe me, navigating those differences was an experience that only God's grace could sustain.

But among those many personalities, one always stood out. From childhood, this person had a certain boldness and distinction that set them apart. They did exactly what they wanted, when they wanted, and how they wanted, completely unaffected by the opinions or influence of others. Convincing them to change their mind was like trying to move a mountain with bare hands, it simply didn't work.

What fascinated me most was not their strong will, but their fearless independence. While most people went with the crowd, this one would stop, tilt their head, and ask, "Why should we go that way? Why not the other?" And just when everyone rolled their eyes and dismissed the thought, they would go their own way, and to everyone's surprise, sometimes, that "different" way worked.

At first, this used to frustrate me deeply. I thought, why can't they just agree like everyone else? But over time, God began to open my eyes. Through this person, He started teaching me one of the most valuable lessons about life, love, and faith—the beauty of difference.

God showed me that not everyone is meant to think like me, act like me, or see things the way I do. He reminded me that peace in relationships doesn't come from forcing people into our image, but from learning to love them in His image. He whispered to my heart, "You don't need to fix people to love them. You just need to love them to see Me in them."

We often struggle in our families, churches, or workplaces not because people are "difficult," but because we have not yet learned to appreciate difference. We expect uniformity in a world that God designed for diversity. We want people to fit neatly into our definitions of "right" and "normal," forgetting that God's wisdom often expresses itself in variety.

Think about it, God could have made all flowers the same color, all trees the same height, all birds the same song. But He didn't. Creation itself reflects His love for difference. The stars shine differently, yet together they make the heavens beautiful. The body of Christ is made of many parts, each unique, yet together they make one whole (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).

So, what if the person who challenges you the most isn't your enemy but your teacher? What if that colleague who questions everything, that family member who never agrees, that friend who always has a different opinion, what if God placed them in your life not to frustrate you, but to refine you?

This month, we will talk about Dealing with Your Thomas, that person who stretches your patience, tests your understanding, and sometimes makes you question your love walk. It could be a spouse, a sibling, a church member, or even you yourself.

And yes, it's easy to label such people as "difficult" or "stubborn," but the truth is, their difference might be divine. Their resistance might be God's way of sharpening your humility, teaching you endurance, or exposing your own pride. Sometimes, the people who rub us the wrong way are the very ones God uses to polish our character.

Just as Jesus had a "Thomas" among His disciples, someone who questioned, doubted, and thought differently, so will you. But notice this: Jesus did not reject Thomas. He did not label him as rebellious or unbelieving. He met him with patience, love, and proof.

Maybe God is calling you to do the same, to love your Thomas with grace, to see beyond their rough edges, and to value their uniqueness instead of trying to erase it. Because sometimes, the difference that annoys you the most is the one God wants to use to grow you the most.

Beloved, as we explore this message, I pray that the Holy Spirit opens your eyes to see difference through the lens of love. To understand that peace doesn't mean sameness, and unity doesn't mean uniformity. And as you learn to deal with your Thomas, may you discover the beauty of God's design, that every unique person around you is part of His divine masterpiece.

## WHO IS THOMAS?

Thomas, also known as Didymus (meaning "the twin"), was one of the twelve disciples of Jesus (John 11:16; 20:24). He is often remembered for one defining moment, the moment he doubted the resurrection of Christ. Yet, if we look deeper, Thomas was far more than the "doubting disciple." He was real, honest, loyal, and brave.

In John 11:16, when Jesus decided to return to Judea, despite the danger of being killed, it was Thomas who said, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." That doesn't sound like a man of weak faith, does it? Thomas loved Jesus deeply and was willing to die with Him. His issue was not a lack of love, but a desire for personal assurance.

In John 14:5, when Jesus spoke about going to prepare a place, it was Thomas who asked, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" His question revealed a mind that didn't just accept things blindly but sought understanding. Thomas wasn't afraid to ask hard questions, and Jesus didn't rebuke him for it. He answered him with one of the most profound revelations of the Gospel: "I am the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)

Then came that famous moment after the resurrection. The other disciples told Thomas that Jesus had appeared to them, but he refused to believe unless he saw and touched the nail marks himself (John 20:24-25). When Jesus appeared again, He didn't scold Thomas. Instead, He said, "Put your finger here; see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting and believe." (John 20:27)

Jesus met Thomas at the point of his struggle. He didn't condemn him for being different; He used his difference to reveal deeper truth. And Thomas responded with one of the most powerful confessions in Scripture: "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28)

Thomas' story shows us that Jesus relates with us uniquely. He understands that faith expresses itself differently in each person. Some believe instantly; others process before they commit. Yet both are precious to Him. Thomas' difference did not disqualify him, it deepened his revelation.

## THOMAS AND YOU : LOVING THE DIFFERENCE

Now, let's bring this closer to home. Every one of us has a Thomas in our lives. Someone who seems to question everything, challenge every decision, and refuse to "just go along." It could be that sibling who always has a different opinion, that spouse who asks "why" when everyone else just says "yes," that church member who never seems easily convinced, or that colleague who just doesn't fit your mold of how things "should" be done.

You cannot expect a new chapter while clinging to old pages.

The good news is that God gives grace for this transformation. Philippians 2:13 reminds us, “For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose.” He doesn’t just command you to change; He empowers you to change.

But what if your Thomas isn’t a problem to fix, but a divine gift to understand? What if God intentionally placed them in your life to stretch you, sharpen you, and deepen your capacity to love beyond comfort?

When we study the life of Jesus, we see that He didn’t surround Himself with people who were all the same. He intentionally chose twelve men, each with distinct personalities, backgrounds, and temperaments. Peter was impulsive and outspoken, quick to act before thinking. John was tender-hearted and affectionate, leaning on Jesus’ chest at the Last Supper (John 13:23). Matthew was a former tax collector, logical and detail-oriented. Simon the Zealot was politically driven, passionate, and nationalistic. And then, there was Thomas, honest, analytical, thoughtful, but deeply cautious.

Each of these men saw the world differently, and yet Jesus loved them all equally. He did not try to make Peter as gentle as John or Thomas as passionate as Peter. Instead, He refined each personality and used their uniqueness to fulfill His divine purpose. The same God who created variety in nature, mountains and valleys, oceans and deserts, lions and lambs, is the same God who delights in diversity among His children.

So, when you encounter your Thomas, resist the urge to “fix” them. You are not called to make them more like you; you are called to love them as Christ does. Often, the person who frustrates you the most is the very person God uses to refine your patience, humility, and compassion. Proverbs 27:17 says, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” Sharpening produces friction, but it also produces effectiveness.

Thomas was often labelled “the doubter,” but let’s not forget that his honesty became a doorway for revelation. When he said, “Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were... I will not believe” (John 20:25), Jesus didn’t rebuke him harshly. He came back for him. He invited Thomas to touch His wounds, to feel, see, and believe (John 20:27). Jesus didn’t dismiss Thomas for his questions; He met him in his doubt. And that encounter produced one of the most profound confessions in all Scripture: “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28).

That’s the beauty of God’s grace, He meets each of us where we are. Your Thomas might process faith differently. They may not respond to God the way you do. But Jesus shows us that love means meeting people in their reality, not rejecting them for it.

And here’s the truth: as much as you have a Thomas in your life, someone else has theirs, and that Thomas might be you. Yes, you. Each of us has areas where we are slow to trust, quick to question, or resistant to change. Just as others test our patience, we test someone else’s too. That’s why humility is essential in relationships. It reminds us that love is not about perfection, it’s about grace.

1 Corinthians 13:7 says, “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” Love doesn’t mean you’ll always agree. It means you’ll stay committed, even when you disagree. It means you’ll seek understanding rather than control. It means you’ll learn to live with difference without letting it divide.

.Beloved, it's time we move beyond mere tolerance to true Christ-like love. Tolerance simply says, "I'll put up with you," but love says, "I'll walk with you." Jesus didn't merely tolerate His disciples; He loved them fiercely, flaws, failures, and all. He washed Peter's feet, knowing Peter would deny Him. He ate with Judas, knowing Judas would betray Him. He restored Thomas, knowing Thomas had doubted Him. That's the kind of love God calls us to.

So, as you deal with your Thomas, whether in your family, church, or workplace, ask the Holy Spirit to give you new eyes. See their uniqueness not as a burden, but as beauty. See their difference not as defiance, but as divine design. Learn from their strengths, and let God use their quirks to mould you. Because sometimes, the greatest lessons in grace come through the people who test it most.

And if you are the Thomas, if you're the one who questions, who hesitates, who struggles to believe or conform, know this: God's love for you is not diminished by your difference. He's not ashamed of how He made you. Your honesty, your thoughtfulness, your depth, all have a place in His plan. Just be sure that your difference glorifies Him.

The body of Christ thrives not on uniformity, but on unity in diversity (1 Corinthians 12:4-6). Every part matters. Every personality is needed. You don't have to look like anyone else to reflect Jesus. You just have to love like Him.

So as you navigate relationships this month, here's the challenge: Love the Thomases in your life. Appreciate them. Pray for them. Celebrate the beauty of difference. Because when we truly see each other through Christ's eyes, we stop competing and start completing one another.

And remember this truth: unity doesn't mean we all look alike, it means we all love alike. When love reigns, difference becomes strength, and the world sees Jesus more clearly through us.

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of people—their uniqueness, their differences, their strengths, and even their challenges. Today, I surrender my relationships to You. Forgive me for the times I have judged, resisted, or misunderstood the "Thomases" You placed in my life.

Lord, give me the heart of Jesus: patient, gentle, understanding, and full of love. Teach me to celebrate diversity, to embrace uniqueness, and to see others through Your eyes. Help me to walk in humility, to yield my expectations, and to allow Your Spirit to refine me through the people around me.

Father, if I am someone's Thomas, work in me. Shape my character. Align my heart to Your will. Make me a vessel of peace, unity, and grace everywhere I go.

Strengthen my relationships, heal wounded connections, restore broken bonds, and help me walk in the love that "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

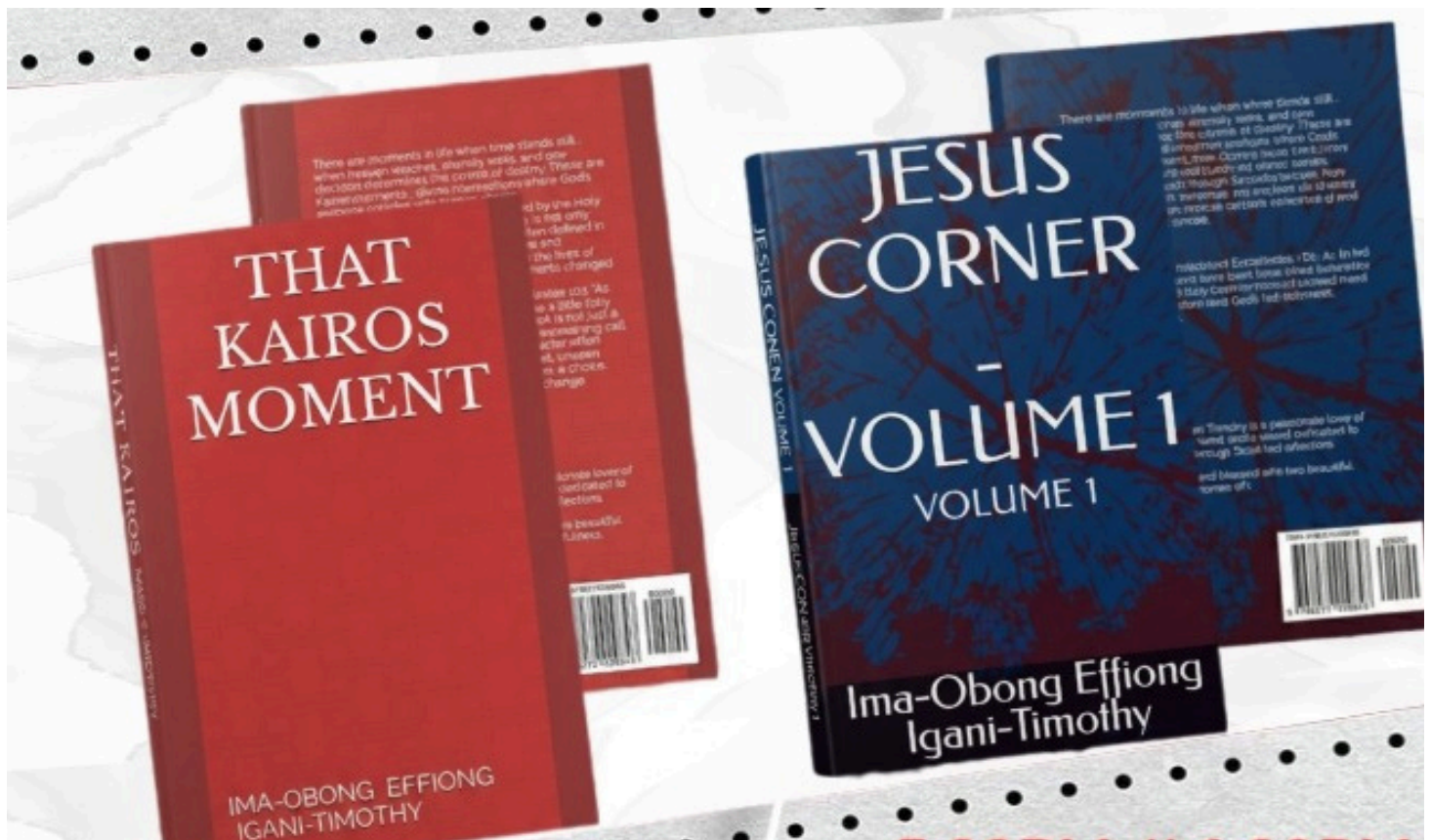
Lord, make me more like Jesus.

In Jesus name, Amen.

## ACCEPT JESUS TODAY!!!

God's mercy is fully revealed in Jesus Christ, who gave His life so we could be forgiven and restored. If you haven't yet received Him, you can do so today. Turn to Him, confess your need, and invite Him into your heart as Lord and Saviour. His arms are open wide in mercy and love—waiting for you to come home. Accept Jesus Today!

If you need to discuss further or want someone to pray with you, please feel free to contact me on: +44 7448624608



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