Dear Open Door Family,

Why do we read the Bible? Why do we pray? Do we really think God hears us and that He answers? Do we really believe the Bible is God's Word and that it is 100% trustworthy? Those things are coming under attack more and more in our culture. Yet the Truth of God's Word has been proven over and over. The culture and the skeptics may question, but we must go back to the Truth of God's Word as our foundation for life. We must believe it, and act on it. Let's look at these verses together.

John 11:38-44 *(NIV) Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. [39] "**Take away the stone**," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." [40] Then Jesus said, "**Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?**"*

It must have seemed utterly FOOLISH to Martha to open the tomb. Lazarus was dead; his body was already decomposing. Jesus did not heal him when He had the chance; what could He possibly do now? Yet in obedience and TRUST, not really knowing what would happen ahead of time, she had the stone rolled away. We are faced everyday with the choice to Trust or NOT to Trust God's Word. We can decide each day if we will Believe God's promises or NOT. The world tells us to forget the Bible; it is ancient literature which is not relevant today. Yet we know that God's Word is alive and active and that it applies to our everyday lives. Sometimes Trusting fully and completely in God's Word is hard. Oswald Chambers said it this way: *"Every time you venture out in the life of faith, you will find something in your commonsense circumstances that flatly contradicts your faith. Common sense is not faith, and faith is not common sense; one is natural and the other spiritual. Can you trust Jesus Christ where your common sense cannot trust Him? Can you venture heroically on Jesus Christ's PROMISES when your commonsense life shouts 'It's not possible'? **...Faith must be tested, because it can be turned into a <u>personal possession</u> ONLY through testing.** What is your faith up against just now?* Maybe we are facing doubts and fears and we are troubled by things going on in our lives. The same Jesus that told Martha if she rolled the stone away she would see the glory of God tells us TRUST Me, BELIEVE My Word and Follow Me. So will we Trust? Will we Believe? Will we Follow? That is what it means to be a Disciple of Jesus Christ. To Trust Him and His Promises and to Obey Him wherever He leads us.

PRAYER: Lord God, help me to TRUST Your promises. Help me to believe Your Word no matter what. When my fears are before me like the stone in front of Lazarus' tomb, help me to TRUST You and expect You to work.

Pastor Mark Kieft

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