

WEEK 6: "Every year you grow, you will find me bigger." (#4-*Prince Caspian*, PC, p. 380)

It is now almost 1300 years (by Narnian time that is) since the close of the events in *LWW*, and Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy have been summoned back to Narnia by Susan's magic horn. Yet, upon their return, no one has seen Aslan, until He called to Lucy in the night. Lucy is not sure who is called, and then, to her delight, he was there: the huge Lion, shining white in the moonlight, with his huge black shadow underneath him. . . . "Aslan, Aslan. Dear Aslan," sobbed Lucy. "At last." . . . "Welcome, child," he said. "Aslan," said Lucy, "you're bigger." "That is because you are older, little one," answered he. "Not because you are?" "I am not. But every year you grow, you will find me bigger."

Once again it is Lucy, the youngest Pevensie child who is the first to see Aslan (She also saw Him first upon their first entrance to Narnia in *LWW*. Remember that Jesus told his hearers unless they repented and became as a little child, they could not enter the Kingdom of God. What He meant by this comment was to not complicate the message of the gospel and to receive it simply, yet honestly. As children haven't developed enough yet to complicate what they hear, they would logically receive the message of Jesus without needing to ask too many questions.

Too often Christians complicate the message of the cross by adding to it beliefs that may be important to have later in one's Christian walk, but not necessarily at the start. That is why Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ developed a gospel tract called "The Four Spiritual Laws," in which he laid out the plan of salvation. This tract explains (1) how God loves man and has a plan for his life. (2) Because of man's sin, he is separated from God. (3) Yet the cross of Christ bridged the gap between holy God and sinful man. (4) In order to experience God's wonderful plan for his life, man must individually turn from his sin to God. Now doesn't that sound like a simple, yet complete, message of salvation to you?

As we "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (as the apostle Paul put it), we will discover just how big a God we serve. Our spiritual maturity should allow us to see the vast amount of things that God has done for us. How many of you feel that God is "bigger" to you now than when you first placed your faith in Him? [PAUSE] Why is that? It's because your relationship with Him has deepened. All that matters now is that we follow Christ, just as Aslan asked Lucy to follow Him: "'Do you mean that is what you want me to do?" gasped Lucy. 'Yes, little one,' said Aslan. 'Will the others see you too?' asked Lucy. 'Certainly not at first,' said Aslan. 'Later on, it depends.' 'But they won't believe me!' said Lucy. 'It doesn't matter, said Aslan.'"

As it turned out, once Lucy returned to her siblings and told them that she had seen Aslan and convinced them to go with her, they eventually did see the great Lion and apologized for doubting their sister (again). Readers of the series should realize that this sounds a lot like Thomas' interaction with the resurrected Christ. You remember that Thomas wouldn't take the disciples at their word regarding Christ's resurrection, but wanted physical, tangible proof that his lord was alive. So that's what Jesus gave him!

Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Jesus was talking about us, the ones who never had the opportunity to walk with Him, yet have placed our faith in Him anyway. My question to you is this: What will you do with the faith you have? Will you stay a babe in Christ, or will you move on from the basics of Christianity into the deeper things of God? Let me encourage you to study the Word, either on your own or with others. How else will you be able to discern truth from error, if you do know what truth is. As the song say, “How will you stand if you don’t understand? Fight like a man, Scriptures in hand.”

Discussion question: What have you learned about God as your faith has deepened?