

***“It also seemed good to me, since since I have carefully investigated everything from the very first, to write to you in an orderly sequence, most honourable Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things about which you have been instructed.” Luke 1: 3-4 (HCSB - Digital Edition)***

This is probably not the sort of verse you may expect to find in a daily devotional (well, nearly daily...Life has been know to get in the way, which is one reason why I hope to get others to help me write in the future). However, I think what Luke says here is very important.

Luke isn't just writing another account from hearsay, he has investigated what he has heard and has written down everything that he is certain of. He wants to make sure that he isn't providing false testimony or proving information that is based on a lie. Theophilus needs to know that he hasn't been listening to false teachings. Luke has gone out and investigated everything to prove it's truth before reporting back with what we now know as the books of Luke an Acts.

So, having discovered that Luke was writing from a place of research and learning, how does this help us in the 21st Century? Let me answer that very simply...it gives us permission to look into the truth of the Gospel, knowing that it has been thoroughly researched during the time of the early church. It also gives us permission to be the creatures we are, curious and cynical, to go out and question things safely. We are given permission, if we need to, to question things that don't ring true with us. Often when something within the bible doesn't ring true it's the Devil placing unfounded doubts in our minds, but occasionally there are things that we doubt for other reasons...perhaps they disagree with the teachings we heard in church, perhaps its more something that just doesn't fit in with the culture of the 21st century. There are plenty of people with testimonies of how good God has been in their lives, both within the churches we visit most weeks, and the books people have written that we can read. There are also books out there that cover the answering of many of the questions that most of us have and Alpha courses are a great way to ask the big questions in a safe place. However, regardless of all these various resources available to us, often our best and first option should be to simply bring it to God and honestly bare our souls to Him, telling Him exactly what we are struggling with and why. Will you get a divine lightening strike with all the answers? - unlikely...but what you are likely to get is a sudden knowing of what your are actually looking for or just a deep sense that what you are questioning is true and the proof? You probably wont need it anymore.

## **Pray**

Father of creation, we thank you for Luke's Gospel account and that he didn't just write what he had heard, but investigated what he wrote so that we know we can rely on what he tells us of you. Please help us with our doubts whenever we question your word or your call on our lives. Teach us where to go for the answers we seek and fill us with Your peace so that we know what we need to know and what we can understand. Please help us to have the faith we need to know too that you don't give us all the answers. Sometimes because we personally aren't ready and sometimes because they really aren't important for our faith in you. Thank you that you don't overwhelm us with things we cannot comprehend and feed us slowly with what we need to know to believe in you and to also fulfil our individual callings. Amen.