

Outline

A Tradition of WOW!

1. **Have you ever had a dumb idea? Something that just didn't make sense and you didn't tell anybody about it or you tried it and then found out how dumb it was?**
2. **Thinking that someone could die and come back to life is a pretty dumb idea.**
 - When you think about it, you would have to be crazy to believe that it was true.
 - When you stop and think about it, you sound pretty crazy even talking about it.
 - Think about it from the standpoint that you have never really heard about it or about God – wouldn't it seem preposterous?
3. **What is the only way that a dumb idea isn't a dumb idea?**
 - To do something like that you would have to be a God – super-human, supernatural.
 - And to believe in God, you would have to trust the whole idea of God, that there is a God who is supernatural and who is superhuman and has that kind of power.
 - You would have to have faith in something that you have never seen. You would have to **trust**.
4. **Ever thought about what it is to really trust? Do you trust me?**
 - You shouldn't trust me – you don't know me.
 - You shouldn't trust me – I am a stranger who could dupe you into anything.
 - You shouldn't trust me – for I have given you no history whereby to trust me.
 - Who thinks they want to test me and see if they can trust me?
 - You have to trust me that I will leave you better off than when you started.
 - You have to do everything that I ask you. Do you trust me?
 - Get them to give me all of their valuables for increments of \$1.
5. **The Easter Story is one that has to be accepted in complete trust.**
 - **Jesus had to trust His Father that His will was perfect.**

Then Jesus went with them to a garden called Gethsemane and told his disciples, "Stay here while I go over there and pray." Taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he plunged into an agonizing sorrow. Then he said, "This sorrow is crushing my life out. Stay here and keep vigil with me." Going a little ahead, he fell on his face, praying, "My Father, if there is any way, get me out of this. But please, not what I want. You, what do you want?" Matthew 26:36-39 TM

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The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; **he has risen, just as he said.**" Matthew 28:5-6a NIV

- **Jesus' disciples had to trust that Jesus was God.**

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." Then he focused his attention on Thomas. "Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don't be unbelieving. Believe." John 20:26-27 TM

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Thomas said, "My Master! My God!" Jesus said, "So, you believe because you've seen with your own eyes. **Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing.**" John 20:28-29 TM

- **The Tradition of WOW begins with a Decision of Trust**

Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. Luke 9:24 NIV

Believing that Jesus is God and could die for my sins and then be powerful enough to rise from the dead to conquer my sins is a pretty dumb idea – unless I trust that God loves me that much that He would ask for my complete trust and life, then give me my life back better than ever before.

Will you begin a Tradition of Wow Today with a Decision to Trust that God loves you and that He has reached across all of Creation, the Universe to seek a specific and personal relationship with you?

- **Carrie Underwood is powerful** – Entertainer of the Year, but she would not grant you a personal audience for a moment in time.
- **Roy Williams is powerful** – just coached the NC Tarheels to the national championship in college basketball, but he would not grant you a personal audience for a moment in time.
- **Barak Obama is powerful** – Leader of the free world and of the strongest nation in the world, but he would not grant you a personal audience for a moment in time.

God is the Creator of the Entire Universe and Easter is his WOW moment where He reaches out to you specifically to tell you that He died for your sins and that He did what only God can do – Beat Death and Rise Again and all with you individually and specifically in mind – He desires not to spend a moment with you, but to be with you every moment of every day in Spirit with you now and Physically one day for all eternity. Only God can do that. WOW!

Will you decide today – Easter 2009 – to begin your Tradition of Wow with God? As the band sings this last song – *Love Is Here* use this prayer as your guide to talk to God:

God, I decide today to trust in you. I choose to believe that you love me and that you have forgiven me for all my sins. I still have questions, but I give you my trust in the midst of those questions and ask you to fill my heart with your Spirit. Will you accept me and receive me in my doubts and in my sin to be my friend forever? Today I begin my Tradition of WOW for the rest of my life.

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