

## Dave Dravecky's Faith

Some of you may remember Dave Dravecky, former pitcher for the San Francisco Giants. At the peak of his career in 1991, he lost his pitching arm to cancer.



Those who watched his 1989 comeback will never forget the Montreal game. Dravecky's left arm snapped with a deafening crack that could be heard in the stands. The comeback quickly ended.

It was a devastating experience. It is bad enough to have cancer, let alone face the amputation of an arm, but then on top of that to lose a promising career as a major-league baseball player. Naturally, Dravecky was filled with many questions.

During his struggles, letters poured in from all over the country. Most were letters of encouragement. Some were looking for answers to life's questions. They had seen him keep his faith, and they wanted to know how he had done it. But one day, he received this letter:

*Dear Mr. Dravecky, if there is a God who cares so much about you, why did He allow you to have the surgery in the first place? I have lived 41 years in this old world and have yet to see any piece of genuine evidence that there is anything real about any of those religious beliefs you talk about. God certainly does not love me and has never done a single thing to express that love for me. I have had to fight for everything I ever got in life. Nobody cares about what happens to me and I don't care about anybody else either.*

*Can't you see the truth that religion is nothing more than a crutch used by a lot of weaklings who can't face reality and that the church is nothing but a bunch of hypocrites who care nothing for each other and whose faith extends not to their actions or daily lives but is only just a bunch of empty phrases spouted off to impress others?*



A cruel letter, isn't it? How would you have responded to it? Dravecky sent a letter to the man and said that he had faced his own doubts and that faith was not always easy. He wrote: *"I am convinced that there is a God. That no matter what happens to me, there is a purpose for it and behind that purpose stands a loving, caring God."*

(more)

Dravecky had come to know the same Lord who came back for Thomas, an apostle of Jesus informally referred to as “doubting Thomas” because he was skeptical of Jesus’ resurrection when he was told of it.

*Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails, and place my hand into His side, I will never believe.”*

*Eight days later, His disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (John 20:24-29 ESV).*



We may have doubts – like Thomas, Dravecky, the letter writer. No one is exempt. What Jesus says to us is: You will be blessed if in the midst of those doubts you believe.

– Beecher Hunter

