THE TREASURE OF

FAITH







ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Foreword

Skepticism, disbelief, discouragement, and depression pervade the world. We are bombarded daily by negativity and tragic news. We get so immersed in these sordid accounts that it is easy to give up hope for humanity. Simply stated, the world is a mess! More than ever before in the history of humanity, we need faith to believe again, to regain our trust and hope.

Curiously enough, in the midst of this dreariness, some people seem immune to this negativity. They never seem to be drowned by circumstances, and they always have a glow and spark of optimism about them. Where do they find the strength?

This spark is called faith. Faith is said to be deaf to doubt, dumb to discouragement, and blind to impossibilities.

Faith is a sister to love, valor, boldness, and optimism. Faith is firmly convinced that no matter how dark and bleak the prospects are, there is always light at the end of the tunnel. Often, a good dose of faith would do more to overcome what ails us than vitamins or tonics. Faith is what moves the hand of God and gives us access to His abundance.

But faith must be fed. Undernourished faith will languish down to skin and bones, but if sustained and exercised, it will grow. In this book, we have compiled writings of people from different time periods, nationalities, cultures, and professions, as well as excerpts from the great handbook of faith, the Bible. Our hope is to strengthen the faith that we all have within but often lies dormant in our souls from lack of use.

May the quotes, verses, thoughts, anecdotes, and poems in the following pages fulfill their purpose to encourage our hearts and renew our faith.





IF YOU CAN BELIEVE, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE
TO HIM WHO BELIEVES.

MARK 9:23 NKJU

ONLY in faith can we find for life a meaning and a possibility. Faith is the strength of life. If a man lives, he believes in something. If he did not believe that one must live for something, he would not live.

Leo Tolstoy

FAITH is the source of reality, because it is life. To believe is to create.

Miguel de Unamuno

THE beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety.

George Müller

FAITH is a necessity to a man. Woe to him who believes in nothing.

Victor Hugo

TURNING on the faith in your heart is like turning on the light in a room.

Author unknown

I'D rather walk in the dark with God Than go alone in the light; I'd rather walk by faith with Him Than go alone by sight!

He takes my whispered, silent prayer, My faith like a mustard seed, And makes what once was vague and dim Reality indeed.

Chorsten Christensen

FAITH is the bird that feels the light when the dawn is still dark.

Rabindranath Tagore

FAITH sees without eyes.

Spanish proverb

FAITH has to do with things that are not seen, and hope with things that are not at hand.

Thomas Aquinas

No one lives as peacefully as those who live with faith.

Author unknown

HE who loses money loses much; he who loses a friend loses much more; he who loses faith loses all.

Eleanor Roosevelt

THE sunbird—one of the tiniest of birds, a native of India—builds a pendant nest, hanging it by four frail threads, generally from a spray of valaris. It is a delicate work of art, with its roof and tiny porch, which a splash of water or a child's touch might destroy.

Amy Carmichael tells how she saw a little sunbird building such a nest just before the monsoon season, and felt that for once bird wisdom had failed; for how could such a delicate structure, in such an exposed situation, weather the winds and the torrential rains?

The monsoon broke, and from her window she watched the nest swaying with the branches in the wind. Then she perceived that the nest had been so placed that the leaves immediately above it formed little gutters which carried the water away from the nest.

There sat the sunbird, with its tiny head resting on her little porch, and whenever a drop of water fell on her long, curved beak, she sucked it in as if it were nectar. The storms raged furiously, but the sunbird sat, quiet and unafraid, hatching her tiny eggs.

Faith is the invisible thread that sustains us in the most adverse circumstances, stronger than steel and able to withstand any storm.

Elisabeth Elliot

LIKE a bird that found its nest, So my soul has found its rest In the center of the will of God.

Author unknown

FAITH keeps us, but God keeps our faith.

Popular saying

If we were logical, the future would be bleak indeed. But we are more than logical. We are human beings, and we have faith, and we have hope.

Jacques Cousteau

START by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

Francis of Assisi

FAITH does not operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. Faith begins where man's power ends.

George Müller

BELIEVE your beliefs and doubt your doubts.

Fred Francis Bosworth

ALL I have seen teaches me to trust the creator for all I have not seen.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

DOUBT sees the obstacles; faith sees the way. Doubt sees the darkest night; Faith sees the day. Doubt dreads to take a step; Faith soars on high. Doubt questions, "Who believes?" Faith answers, "I."

Author Unknown

FAITH either moves mountains or tunnels through.

Author Unknown

UNDERSTANDING is the reward of faith. Therefore seek not to understand that you may believe, but believe that you may understand.

Augustine of Hippo

HAVE you perchance found a diamond pendant? I feel sure I lost it last night in your theater," asked a woman who did not identify herself to the manager of the theater.

"Not yet, madam," said the manager, "but we will search diligently. Please hold the line for a minute while I check with our staff."

Returning a few moments later to the telephone, the manager said, "I have good news for you! The diamond pendant has been found!" But there was no reply.

"Hello! Hello!" said the manager, but the woman had hung up. The manager endeavored to trace the call, but without success.

Many of God's children are like that woman. They fail to wait on God. His answer to our prayers will come in His good time. The promise is sure: "Call to Me, and I will answer you."

When we have faith, we're not surprised to receive the answer. Faith counts on it.

Author unknown

1. Jeremiah 33:3 NKJV



FAITH is believing what God says, simply because it is God who says it.

Author unknown

IF our life is compared to a movie, then faith is the musical background that runs through the whole tape and is present in every scene, every dialog, every action shot, every moment, whether comedy or tragedy.

Author unknown

FAITH is love taking the form of aspiration.

William Ellery Channing

FAITH begins where pride ends.

Hugues-Félicité Robert de Lamennais

FAITH may not make the sun rise sooner, but it will make the night seem shorter.

Popular saying

THESE words were found on the wall of a cellar in Cologne, Germany, after World War II:

I believe...

I believe in the sun, even when it is not shining; I believe in love, even when I feel it not;

I believe in God, even when He is silent.

Author unknown

ABRAHAM is called the Father of Faith because he followed God under unheard-of circumstances, passing through many difficult trials and tests. When God called him, he began his journey without knowing where he was going, or what would become of his tribe. Having left his homeland, he wasn't sure of his destination, but he was sure of his company.

The Editors

ISAIAH 55:9 says, "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

In making our plans, we must remember that God is in control of the situation, that it's His work, and that He is able to change hearts and situations and make things happen that are far beyond our abilities. That's the "God factor." What seems logical to the human mind often takes on a different perspective when the God factor comes into play. The God factor is that extra factor in the equation which defies even the laws of nature and makes the impossible possible.

The God factor means standing on God's promises. It means trusting in Him, believing that nothing is impossible with Him. It means that He's able to supply all your needs. It means that faith in Him overrides all impossibilities. God is in the heavenly realm, but He works in the real world. He's the God of heaven, and also the God of this present world. He transcends both, rules in both, lives in both, dominates both, creates in both, and has the power to pay us in both currencies.

Peter Amsterdam

TRUST in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV

DOES your faith move mountains, or do mountains move your faith?

Author unknown

IT is urgent to recover the light that is characteristic of faith; because when its light goes out, all the other lights dimly flicker. And it is this attribute of the light of faith that is able to illuminate the whole existence of man. Because it is a light so strong that it cannot come of ourselves, it must come from a higher source; it must come definitely from God.

Pope Francis

FAITH carries the light of truth, which eliminates the shadow of doubt.

Author unknown

FAITH brightens our lives in a magical way
Bringing quiet and peace to a troubled day.
Faith is believing that after the rain
Bright birds will be singing and sunshine again.
Faith lets us know that the darkness of night
Is followed each morning by dawn's glowing light.

Author unknown

God moves in mysterious ways His wonders to perform. He plants His footstep in the sea, And rides upon the storm. Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, But trust Him for His grace; Behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face. His purposes will ripen fast, Unfolding every hour; The bud may have a bitter taste, But sweet will be the flower. Blind unbelief is sure to err. And scan His work in vain; God is His own interpreter, And He will make it plain.

William Cowper

FAITH is like electricity. You can't see it, but you can see the light.

Oswald Chambers

THE arithmetic of faith:

Prayer + faith - doubt = the answer.

Author unknown

IF faith no larger than a mustard seed can move a mountain, ¹ you figure that your faith must be small indeed, because your prayers seem to go unanswered. That can be disheartening, I know, but it shouldn't stop you from asking Me for a miracle when you need one.

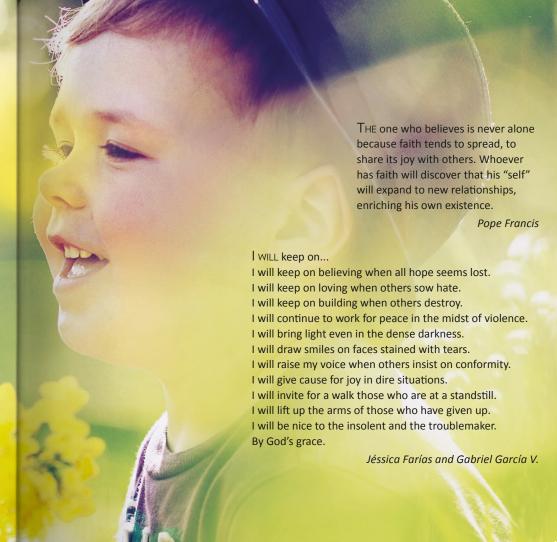
There are a couple of things you should know about faith: First, it's not something you can earn or muster up yourself, but it's a gift from your heavenly Father. Second, like a muscle, faith needs nourishment and exercise to grow. That spiritual nourishment comes from reading and absorbing God's Word. You exercise your faith by acting on it. So nourish and put your faith to work daily through your prayers and actions.

You don't have to wait till you feel you have strong faith to begin receiving My help, though. If you need results now but feel you don't have enough faith to warrant them, ask Me to increase your faith. Be like the man in the Bible who begged Me to heal his son, who could not hear or speak. The man had every reason to doubt that things could ever be different, and he did. He knew that his faith was weak, so when I asked him if he believed I could heal his son, he replied, "Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief." The moment he confessed his inadequacy and asked for My help, he received both faith and the miracle—his son was instantly healed!²

Jesus

THREE men were walking on a wall—Feeling, Faith, and Fact.
Feeling took an awful fall, and Faith was taken back;
So close was Faith to Feeling, he stumbled and fell too;
But Fact remained and pulled Faith back, and Faith brought Feeling, too.

Author unknown



^{1.} See Matthew 17:20.

^{2.} See Mark 9:17-29.

FAITH is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.

It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel's offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed his approval of his gifts. Although Abel is long dead, he still speaks to us by his example of faith.

It was by faith that Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying—"he disappeared, because God took him." Before he was taken up, he was known as a person who pleased God. And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents. And so did Isaac and Jacob, who inherited the same promise. Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.

All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own ... a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Excerpts from Hebrews 11:1–16 NIV



"IMPOSSIBLE" is a word to be found only in the dictionary of fools.

Napoleon Bonaparte

FAITH makes all things possible. Love makes all things easy.

Dwight L. Moody

GOD admonishes you do what you can, and to pray for what you cannot, and aids you that you may be able.

THE difficult we do immediately. The

Motto of the U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers during World War II

impossible takes a little longer.

Augustine of Hippo

CAN'T

Can't is the worst word that's written or spoken;
Doing more harm here than slander and lies;
On it is many a strong spirit broken,
And with it many a good purpose dies.
It springs from the lips of the thoughtless each morning
And robs us of courage we need through the day:

It rings in our ears like a timely-sent warning And laughs when we falter and fall by the way.

Can't is the father of feeble endeavor,
The parent of terror and half-hearted work;
It weakens the efforts of artisans clever,
And makes of the toiler an indolent shirk.
It poisons the soul of the man with a vision,
It stifles in infancy many a plan;
It greets honest toiling with open derision
And mocks at the hopes and the dreams of a man.

Can't is a word none should speak without blushing;
To utter it should be a symbol of shame;
Ambition and courage it daily is crushing;
It blights a man's purpose and shortens his aim.
Despise it with all of your hatred of error;
Refuse it the lodgment it seeks in your brain;
Arm against it as a creature of terror,
And all that you dream of you some day shall gain.
Can't is the word that is foe to ambition,

An enemy ambushed to shatter your will; Its prey is forever the man with a mission And bows but to courage and patience and skill. Hate it, with hatred that's deep and undying, For once it is welcomed 'twill break any man; Whatever the goal you are seeking, keep trying And answer this demon by saying: "I can."

Edgar Guest

JESUS looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Matthew 19:26 ESV

WITH God nothing shall be impossible.

Luke 1:37

GOD is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

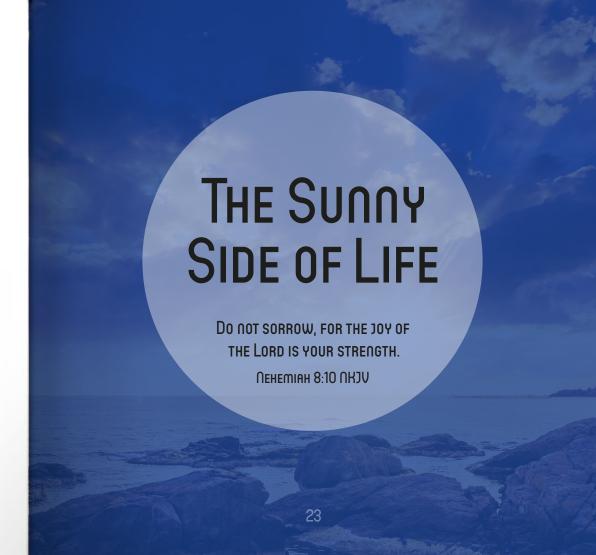
Numbers 23:19 ESV

God loves with a great love the man whose heart is bursting with a passion for the impossible.

William Booth

REMEMBER this when the days darken and you find yourself in what seem like hopeless situations: Nothing is impossible for Me, so anything is possible for you when you ask in faith for Me to intervene. I always reward faith, My power is always at the ready, and I put Myself at your beck and call—all because I love you.

Jesus



THERE is an African folktale about a king and his close friend who had grown up together. The king's friend had a habit of looking at every situation positively and remarking, "This is good!"

One day, they went on a hunting expedition, and the king gave his friend the job of loading his guns and handing them to him. Apparently the friend did something wrong at some point, because one gun misfired and blew the king's thumb off.

"This is good!" the king's friend remarked as usual.

"No, this is not good!" the king replied, and he sent his friend to jail.

About a year later, the king was hunting in an area that he shouldn't have ventured into. Cannibals captured him and took him to their village. They tied his hands, bound him to a stake in the ground, and stacked firewood around his feet. However, just as they were about to set fire to the wood, they noticed that the king was missing a thumb. The cannibals had a superstition that forbade them from eating anyone who was less than whole, so they untied the king and sent him on his way.

As the king traveled home, he was reminded of the event that had taken his thumb, and he regretted the way he had treated his friend. He went straight to the jail and released his friend.

"You were right," the king said. "It was good that my thumb was blown off." And he proceeded to tell his friend about his brush with death. "I am sorry for sending you to jail for so long," he said. "That was very bad of me!"

"No," his friend replied, "this is good!"

"What do you mean, 'This is good'? How could it be good that I sent my friend to jail for a year?"

"If I had not been in jail," the king's friend replied, "I would have been with you."

The Editors





DIFFERENT people often view situations in different ways, ranging from pessimistic to overly optimistic, and everything in between. There are many situations in which it really helps to have an abundance of faith and a good deal of positiveness and optimism. Realistically, we all have to continually deal with and handle problems, and if we don't approach them with persevering faith, it's easy to get dragged down and become negative. —Particularly when they're difficult or serious problems.

Our goal, as mature Christians, is to not be dragged down by circumstances or problem situations, but to manifest faith and to be a positive influence on those around us. Being full of faith is what helps keep us from being constantly burdened and worried about the problems we and others face. It takes faith to be able to rise out of the morass or abyss of our negative situations and help others do the same.

Unless you have strong faith and depend on God's strength, I don't think too many people can take a barrage of negative circumstances and problems without being adversely affected by it. Problem situations need people who can be positive, inspirational, and full of faith.

Maria Fontaine

REJOICE in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Philippians 4:4 NKJV

PART of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward. There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair. That way lays defeat and death.

Nelson Mandela

OPTIMISM, gratitude, and a positive attitude are effective agents to rise above any kind of hard circumstance or conflict. Optimism is the disposition to look on the more positive side of events or conditions and to expect the most favorable outcome.

Everyone has enough, and more, problems of their own. That's why people are naturally attracted to the optimist, the person who looks for solutions instead of getting bogged down in negativity.

The Editors

THE pessimist finds a difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist finds an opportunity in every difficulty.

The pessimist complains because the rosebush has thorns. The optimist is thankful that the thorn bush has roses.

When you think positive thoughts, speak positive things, and take positive action, you feel better and things work out better. Expressing your gratitude to Me accelerates that positive cycle, because it not only helps you to think on the good in your life, but it moves you out of the physical realm with all of its limitations into the spiritual realm, where all things are possible.

Giving thanks reminds you that only I am capable of solving your problems. It also tells Me that you're trusting Me. Your thankfulness pleases Me and moves Me to answer your prayers, but it also encourages you and causes you to see beyond your request and present circumstances, to focus instead on the fulfillment.

Gratitude brings so much of My Spirit into your life, particularly the gifts of faith and positiveness, and those put you in line for healing, good health, and miracles of all sorts. Once you start expressing your thankfulness, you'll realize how much there is to thank Me for. A life of gratitude will turn your times of trouble into times of triumph.

Jesus

HOPE AND **TRUST** BLESSED IS THAT MAN WHO MAKES THE LORD HIS TRUST.

20

Psalm 40:4 NKJV

HAVE you ever noticed how some people can stay afloat when engulfed in troubles and hardships, while others sink to the bottom? What sets the swimmers apart from the sinkers?

From what I've seen, the biggest factor seems to be faith in God's love. When those who understand how much God loves them find themselves in over their heads, they know He won't let them drown. So, unlike those who don't have such faith, they don't wear themselves out struggling just to keep their heads above water—or worse, panic and go down all the quicker. Buoyed by their faith, the swimmers can concentrate their energy on getting to solid ground.

If you feel more like a sinker than a swimmer, you can get ready for the next sink-or-swim situation by strengthening your faith in God's love. The scope and depth of that love are beyond our comprehension. God doesn't enjoy seeing you in trouble. He isn't trying to make life hard for you. He is on your side and wants nothing more than to see you happy and fulfilled.

The first step in learning to swim is learning to float, and that starts with learning to relax and not fight the water. Put yourself in God's hands, lie back, relax, and let Him support you. Practice in the shallows, and you will be ready for whatever the future may hold.

Keith Phillips

1. Mark 9:23 NKJV

Trusting God means giving our burdens and worries to Him.

Cast your burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.

—Psalm 55:22 NKJV

Trusting God frees us from fear.

Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.

-Psalm 56:3 NKJV

Trusting God gives us the ultimate security.

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust."

-- Psalm 91:1-2 NKJV

Trusting puts us in line for God's blessings.

Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

−Psalm 2:12 NKJV

WE rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 5:3-5 ESV

IT dawned on me recently that I frequently settle for a superficial meaning of the word *hope*: "I hope we have good weather tomorrow." "I hope things work out for you." But the apostle Paul is not talking about the wishful thinking kind of hope here. It's hope that is grounded in faith in God's love and loving plan for us personally and for humankind.

The author of the epistle to the Hebrews writes, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." It's when we face difficulties and the bleak, blank times of life that hope in the deepest, truest sense shines brighter, stronger. This is how the deepening and shaping of our character produces hope.

Then we won't shrink from the trials of life or be apprehensive in times of uncertainty. The hope that "does not put us to shame" will never let us down. Why? Because it comes to us through God's love, which "has been poured into our hearts." From that love springs faith, hope, and yet more love. It's a beautiful, perfect cycle, an ongoing exchange of hope and trust that God has given to carry us through life, closer to Him.

Olivia Bauer

FAITH is the wind that blows the sail of our ship of hope toward the desired destination.

Author unknown

HOPE is bread for the soul.

Spanish saying

To wait open-endedly is an enormously radical attitude toward life. So, too, is giving up control over our future and letting God define our life. That, indeed, is a very radical stance toward life in a world preoccupied with control.

Henri Nouwen

I KNOW the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

THE darkest hour is just before dawn.

Popular saying

WHAT do you bring me? Great wealth.

In riches?

Everlasting.

Why?

For your afflictions.

What is my illness?

Sorrow.

What will you give me? Strength.

What do you seek?

To relieve you.

What do you promise?

Contentment.

What are you good for?

Consolation.

Where do you come from? Heaven.

Tell me your name.

Hope.

José Selgas

32

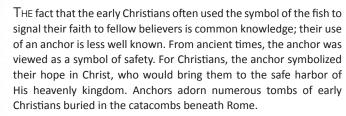
^{1.} Hebrews 6:19 NIV

THOUGH the angry surges roll
On my tempest-driven soul,
I am peaceful, for I know,
Wildly though the winds may blow,
I've an anchor safe and sure,
That can evermore endure.

And it holds, my anchor holds: Blow your wildest, then, O gale, On my bark so small and frail; By His grace I shall not fail, For my anchor holds, my anchor holds.

Mighty tides about me sweep, Perils lurk within the deep, Angry clouds o'ershade the sky, And the tempest rises high; Still I stand the tempest's shock, For my anchor grips the rock.

William Clark Martin



Christine Hunt

To realize the worth of the anchor, we need to feel the storm.

Author unknown

WE have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

Hebrews 6:19 NIV

WE do not steady the ship by fixing the anchor on anything that is inside the vessel. The anchorage must be outside of the ship. And so the soul does not rest on what it sees in itself, but on what it sees in the character of God, the certainty of His truth, the impossibility of His falsehood.

Adapted from Dr. Thomas Chalmers

FAITH and love are so closely intertwined; they are in fact, inseparable. Galatians 5:6 talks of faith working through love. Every expression of love is an expression of faith, and every expression of faith is an expression of love. It has been said that faith begins when we realize how much God loves us.

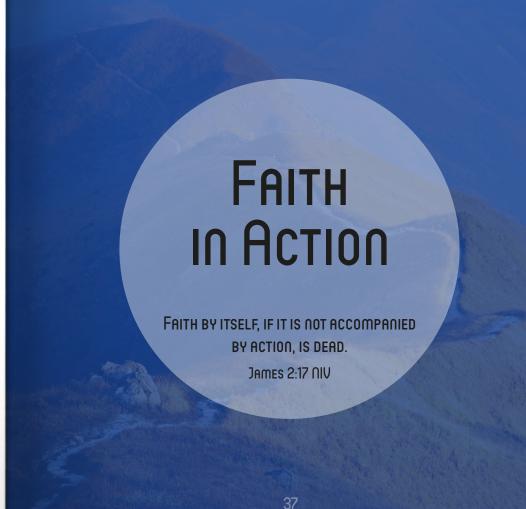
The Editors

LOVE is faith, not science.

Francisco Quevedo

FAITH is not the simple acceptance of abstract beliefs; but rather an intimate relationship with Christ that motivates us to opens our hearts to this mystery of love and to live as people who know they are loved by God.

Pope Benedict XVI



It's a dilemma that all Christians face at one time or another: How much does our success depend on faith, what we trust God to do, and how much depends on our works, what we do ourselves? What's the balance?

A rowboat makes a good analogy. Label one oar "faith" and the other oar "works," and see how far you can get with only one or the other. Drop the oar labeled "faith" and row with the one labeled "works," and you'll find yourself going around in circles. Drop "works" and row with "faith," and you'll go the opposite direction, but still in circles. But if you apply equal pressure to both oars, you'll find yourself moving forward in a straight line toward your goal. It takes both!

Activated

WHOEVER hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

Jesus, Matthew 7:24–25 NKJV

FAITH without works is a house built on sand.

Spanish saying

PUT your faith to use every day. The more you exercise your faith, the more miracles you will see and the more your faith will grow. Don't fall into the "impossible" trap!

Maria Fontaine

I HAVE fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.

Apostle Paul, 2 Timothy 4:7

WE live by faith and faith lives by exercise.

Author unknown

FAITH without action is like a car without gasoline.

Popular saying

EVERYONE who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

1 John 5:4 ESV

SOME people are always telegraphing to heaven for God to send a cargo of blessings to them; but they are not at the wharf to unload the cargo when it comes.

Author unknown

FAITH is needed all the way,
Faith to toil and faith to pray,
Faith to learn and faith to teach,
Faith to practice, faith to preach;
Faith to start each day anew,
Faith to do our duty, too;
Faith to help the weak along,
Faith to bear, in patience, wrong;
Faith to smile, though sad within,
Faith to conquer every sin,
Faith to ask Him for His care
While we earthly trials bear;
Faith to smother every sigh,
Faith to live and faith to die.

Author unknown

WHEN a person decides to put faith into action, anything is possible. To have faith is to see the potential and possibilities and to act upon them. Nothing can stop a man of faith. He will proceed even in darkness, because faith lights his way. He will fight for what he believes, even when the odds are against him. If he has real faith, he will continue in spite of opposition or the opinions of others. Maybe his knees will shake, but not his faith. It has been said that it is not that the brave are not afraid, but that they are brave because they have the courage to face their fears.

The Editors

FAITH follows God implicitly, albeit with trembling on occasion; while sight calculates, considers, cautions, and cringes.

Author unknown

You have set yourselves a difficult task, but you will succeed if you persevere; and you will find a joy in overcoming obstacles. Remember, no effort that we make to attain something beautiful is ever lost.

Helen Keller

MAN says, "Tie up in port. Don't attempt the impossible—you'll sink!"

God says, "Launch out into the deep! Cast forth your nets and I'll give you such a catch of fish that there will not be room enough to hold it." 1

Man says, "Look at the waves! Look at the condition of your vessel! You can't do it!"

God says, "Look at Me. With man it is impossible, but with God nothing is impossible, and all things are possible to those who believe."²

Activated

^{1.} See Luke 5:4-9.

^{2.} See Luke 1:37; 18:27.

O'ER uncharted sea To their hearts' desire Do men of faith set sail, While the beaten men Walk with fearful hearts Along life's beaten trail.

The men of faith will challenge Both men and Satan's wrath, But the beaten men will compromise And walk the beaten path.

Beaten roads are for beaten men, As they walk with measured tread, With tuneless souls they move along To dwell among the dead.

But men of faith climb unscaled walls, And sail uncharted sea. They dare to cross convention's bounds To set the captives free.

Thomas Wyatt

To believe in something and not live it is dishonest.

Mahatma Gandhi

LET each man think himself an act of God, His mind a thought, his life a breath of God; And let each try, by great thoughts and good deeds, To show the most of Heaven he hath in him.

Philip James Bailey

BELIEVING IS SEEING

THE FOOLISHNESS OF GOD IS WISER THAN MEN; AND THE WEAKNESS OF GOD IS STRONGER THAN MEN.

1 Corinthians 1:25

SOME people say that *seeing is believing*, but God's Word teaches us to *believe in order to see*:

Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

-John 20:29 NKJV

We are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

-Romans 8:24

We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

-2 Corinthians 4:18 ESV

We walk by faith, not by sight.

-2 Corinthians 5:7

Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

-John 11:40 ESV

NEVER be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.

Corrie ten Boom

FAITH indeed tells what the senses do not tell, but not the contrary of what they see. It is above them and not contrary to them.

Blaise Pascal

FAITH is in the spiritual realm what money is in the commercial realm.

Author unknown

RATIONALIZE faith? When I wished to be the owner and not the slave of it, I became its slave, instead of finding the freedom that is in Christ.

Miguel de Unamuno

FAITH is different from proof; the latter is human, the former is a gift of God.

Blaise Pascal

A FRIEND overheard two little girls counting their pennies. One said, "I have five pennies."

The other said, "I have ten."

"No," said the first little girl, "you have just five cents, the same as I have."

"But my father said that when he came home tonight, he would give me five cents," the second child quickly replied, "so I do have ten cents."

The child's faith gave her proof of that which she did not yet have. She counted those pennies as being already hers, because they had been promised by her father.

Author unknown

AND though I may not see the way He's planned for me to go ...
The way seems dark to me just now. But oh. I'm sure He knows!

Today He guides my feeble step Tomorrow's in His right ... He has asked me to never fear ... But walk by faith ... not sight.

Some day the mists will roll away. The sun will shine again. I'll see the beauty in the flowers. I'll hear the bird's refrain.

And then I'll know my Father's hand Has led the way to light, Because I placed my hand in His And walked by faith ... not sight.

Ruth Morgan



EVERY day, those with childlike faith accomplish tasks that learned scoffers consider impossible.

Author unknown

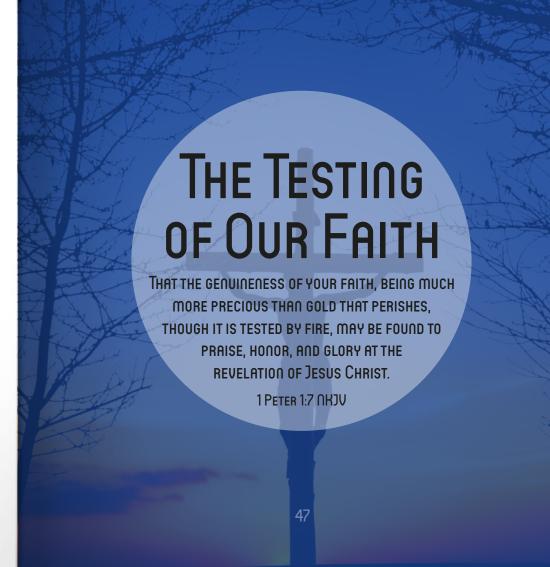
FAITH has an element of craziness. Many times it goes against all logic. It can be irrational and farfetched, and because of those very attributes it can often attain to heights not reached by conventional methods. Many of the great discoveries, inventions, and feats of history were done by those who ventured out to do things that defied all coherence and logic.

THE foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise.

1 Corinthians 1:25,27 NIV

FOR Miguel de Unamuno, Don Quixote is "A Knight of the Faith." [...] Our knight has all of his adventures within time and space, but their roots are in eternity. [...] We are sorely lacking insanity, real craziness that will cure us of the disease of common sense that chokes our lives. Don Quixote finds fortitude in his own personal faith giving him the strength to think and act beyond the restrictions of public opinion.

Taken from "The faith of Don Quixote in the perspective of Miguel de Unamuno," by Kevin Fagan.



THIS world is God's workshop for making men.

Henry Ward Beecher

YOU will never learn faith in comfortable surroundings.

Author unknown

WE are twice armed if we fight with faith.

Plato

FAITH is believing, faith is hoping, faith is trusting. Faith walks on the water to follow Me and refuses to look at the waves. Faith refuses to call anything impossible. Faith refuses to quit or to be defeated. Faith refuses to allow its joy and peace to be stolen by circumstances or difficulties.

I give you My gift of faith. With it, you will be able to rise above the waves, above circumstances. You will be able to stand on the solid foundation of My Word, in faith, knowing that I am beneath you, and that with Me beside you and around you and underneath you, you cannot fail, you cannot fall.

Jesus

THERE are well-meaning people who believe that life is too harsh. They would like to plan and arrange the world so that no one need suffer. But without struggle, how could the end result of personality be developed? How could a person become rounded and mature and strong?

This shaping process makes men. As tough and unpleasant as difficulty may be, it is the source of potential development. Surround every difficulty with prayer, with faith, and with straight thinking. Then let enthusiasm build power under it. On this basis, you can handle any situation that can ever develop.

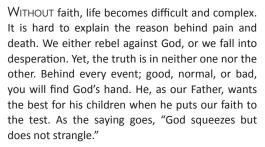
Norman Vincent Peale

I NEVER knew a night so black,
Light failed to follow on its track.
I never knew a storm so gray,
It failed to have its clearing day.
I never knew such bleak despair
That there was not a rift somewhere.
I never knew an hour so drear
Love could not fill it full of cheer!

John Kendrick Bangs

WE do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

2 Corinthians 4:16-17 NIV



Raul Feres

TRUST Him—when dark days assail you; Trust Him—when your faith is small. Trust Him—when to simply trust Him is the hardest thing of all.

Author unknown



DID you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks? The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come. When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it.

The storms do not have to overcome us. By setting our minds and our faith toward God, we can allow His power to lift us above them. We can soar above the storm.

Author unknown

THOSE who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles.

Isaiah 40:31 NIV

WHEN you lie down, you will not be afraid ... your sleep will be sweet.

Proverbs 3:24 NIV

GOD is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid.

Isaiah 12:2

Courage is fear that has said its prayers.

Dorothy Bernard

THE peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

FEAR knocked at the door.
Faith opened it.
And ... there was no one there.

Author unknown

LONG before a giant shark attacked its first victim in *Jaws*, before Indiana Jones stumbled onto his first booby trap, and before computer graphics breathed new life into zombies, one of the most terrifying scenes on the big screen was when someone stepped into quicksand. No Tarzan movie was complete until he had rescued some innocent soul from certain death in that awful ooze or the villain's final breath had gurgled to the surface.

Like that quicksand, problems sometimes threaten to suck us under. The harder we struggle, the deeper we sink. But things are rarely as bad as they seem. The laws of physics make it nearly impossible for a person to sink more than about waist deep in real-life quicksand. It may be difficult and take awhile to get unstuck, but the person won't go all the way under. Likewise, those who have a working faith in God can only sink so low or stay so long entangled in their problems.

Do an online search for "how to escape from quicksand," and you'll find a few pointers that form a basic plan. Adapted to the faith approach to problems in general, those points go something like this:

- **Don't panic.** That will cause you to sink deeper. Try to relax. Control your spirit, and trust that God is in control of the rest.
- Pray. God always has a better plan than you can come up with on your own.
- Shed unnecessary weights. Problems have a way of putting lesser things in perspective.
- Spread your weight. Lean on God. "Underneath are the everlasting arms."
- Be patient. Slow, deliberate actions produce better results than frantic activity.
 - **Rest periodically.** Clear your mind and refresh your spirit by meditating on positive, faith-building thoughts from God's Word.

Keith Phillips



A FRENCH soldier in World War I carried with him this little solution for worry:

Of two things, one is certain: Either you are at the front, or you are behind the lines.

If you are at the front, of two things one is certain: Either you are exposed to danger, or you are in a safe place.

If you are exposed to danger, of two things one is certain: Either you are wounded, or you are not wounded.

If you are wounded, of two things one is certain: Either you recover, or you die.

If you recover, there is no need to worry.

If you die, you can't worry.

So why worry?

Author unknown

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds.

Philippians 4:6-7 NIV

Worry! Why worry? What can worry do?
It never keeps a trouble from overtaking you.
It gives you indigestion and woeful hours at night,
And fills with gloom the passing days, however fair and bright.
It puts a frown upon your face and sharpness in your tone;
You're unfit to live with others and unfit to live alone.
Worry! Why worry? What can worry do?
It never keeps a trouble from overtaking you.

Pray! Why pray? What can praying do?
Praying really changes things, arranges life anew.
It's good for digestion, gives peaceful hours at night,
And fills the grayest, gloomiest days with rays of glowing light.
It puts a smile upon your face, and the love-note in your tone,
Makes you fit to live with others and fit to live alone.
Pray! Why pray? What can praying do?
It brings God's Love and power from heaven to live and work with you.

Praise! Why praise? What does praising do?
Praise satisfies the heart of God and brings new joy to you,
Provides a tonic for the soul, and keeps you always bright
With memories of blessings sent, and joyful songs at night.
And when there's "Thank you" on your face, and the praise-note's in your tone,
Folks all will want to live with you: you'll never be alone.
Praise! Why praise? What does praising do?
Praise always says that God is good. Experience proves it true.

Author unknown

EVERYONE is worried about the future these days—and it's no wonder. The way things are going, everyone has reason to fear what will happen to them, their family, their city, their country, their world. This planet has become a frightening and stressful place to live. Sometimes you wish you could find a hideaway, nail the windows and doors closed, and keep the world out.

It doesn't do any good to pretend the problems aren't there, but you don't have to be afraid, because I'm looking out for you. When fears overwhelm you, hide in Me. When you find yourself in a dangerous situation, call on Me for help and then rest assured that I will be there to protect you. When you can't watch over your loved ones, commit them to My care.

And even if the unthinkable happens—if you or your loved ones are taken from this life—know that a better life awaits on the other side. Heaven is where all this world's wrongs are made right.

So you see, although there's plenty you could worry about, you don't have to worry about a thing. I'm taking care of you!

Jesus

GOD'S PROMISES

PRAISE BE TO THE LORD. ... NOT ONE WORD
HAS FAILED OF ALL THE GOOD
PROMISES HE GAVE.

1 Kings 8:56 NIV

Do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?

And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Matthew 6:25-34 ESV

GOD wants us to avail ourselves of the multitude of promises in His Word. Each promise is backed by God's celestial resources; and like a check to be cashed from the Bank of Heaven, each promise is guaranteed by the Maker of the universe.

Some promises are universal, meaning they were meant for all people of all times, such as, "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Other promises were made to a specific person or group, such as, "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it," which was a promise originally given by Jesus to His first disciples.

Nevertheless, God did not mean for these promises to be exclusively for the original recipients. They are directed to all who have faith that He will fulfill His promises. In other words, they are for you. Reach out with the hand of faith to receive His love, guidance, and blessings.

As you become more familiar with God's Word, you will learn to recognize the promises and how to claim them for your own as if they were written just for you. This demonstration of your faith and knowledge of His Word pleases God and liberates His power to answer your prayers.

The Editors

^{1.} Acts 2:21

^{2.} John 14:14 NKJV

Precious Promises Sampler

THE following are just a few of God's promises to you. There are hundreds more that you can hold Him to when faced with any problem.

God's promises are contracts and often have conditions attached. You may want to take a moment to think about each one in terms of God's part and your part.

God's love

I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39 NKJV

Answers to prayer

Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.

Jeremiah 33:3 NKJV

This is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

1 John 5:14-15 NKJV

Material supply

No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Psalm 84:11 NKJV

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Matthew 6:33 NKJV

God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 NKJV

Protection and help in time of trouble

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1 NKJV

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.

Isaiah 43:2 NKJV

Comfort

The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.

Psalm 34:18 NKJV

I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

Jesus, John 14:18



As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"

"Yes, Lord," they replied.

Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you"; and their sight was restored.

Matthew 9:27-30 NIV

A WOMAN who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him [Jesus] and touched the fringe of his garment, for she said to herself, "If I only touch his garment, I will be made well."

Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well."

And instantly the woman was made well.

Matthew 9:20-22 ESV

THEN Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Matthew 15:28 NKJV

BLESSED is she who believed [Mary], for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.

Luke 1:45 NKJV

In Conclusion

PEACE BE TO THE BRETHREN, AND LOVE WITH FAITH, FROM GOD THE FATHER AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

EPHESIANS 6:23

TODAY'S world is a skeptic one with little interest in spirituality. How do we keep our beliefs in such dry surroundings? Faith is at the core of our spiritual lives. We have to feed our faith, not only to withstand the onslaughts, but to grow and to flourish. The following paragraphs provide good counsel on how to keep our faith thriving.

Feed on the Word of God.

Faith is built by faithful study of God's Word. As you read and absorb it daily, as you think about its truths and how they apply to you, your faith will grow. "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." Jesus promises, "If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Pray and meditate.

God wants to have a personal relationship with you through His Son, Jesus. "There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." Communing in spirit with Jesus—sharing your heart with Him and receiving His love, encouragement, and answers in return—will strengthen your connection and deepen your relationship.

Live your faith.

"Faith without works is dead," but conversely, putting faith into action brings it to life. As you apply God's Word to daily living, its principles and promises will ring true time after time, and your faith in it and its Author will grow.

Look for the good.

Nothing can put a damper on faith like adverse circumstances, but the Bible promises, "All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." Learn to find and focus on that good, and your faith will be buoyant enough to survive anything.

Draw from the experience of others.

Reading what God has done for others will increase your faith. Books, movies, and written testimonies with accounts of miraculous interventions and answered prayer give proof that God's power is at work today.

Believe that God is on your side.

Pray, not just with the vague hope that things are going to work out somehow, but with real faith that God is going to bring about the best solution. When we thank God in advance, even before we see the answers, we are putting the need in the background, and the emphasis on God's power to answer.

Thank God for the good.

Praising God for His goodness propels us into His presence. "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name." The more you thank God for His goodness, the more you'll find to be thankful for and the more He will bless you. It's an upward spiral that makes God and the spiritual realm more real to you; it strengthens your faith.

The Editors

^{1.} Romans 10:17 NKJV

^{2.} John 8:31-32 NKJV

^{3. 1} Timothy 2:5

^{4.} James 2:26

^{5.} Romans 8:28 NKJV

^{6.} Psalm 100:4 NKJV

What room is there for troubled fear? I know my Lord, and He is near; And He will light my candle, so That I may see the way to go.
O Love, O Light, I sing to Thee, And in my heart make melody.

There need be no bewilderment
To one who goes where he is sent;
The trackless plain by night and day
Is set with signs lest he should stray
O Love, O Light, I sing to Thee,
And in my heart make melody.

My path may cross a waste of sea, But that need never frighten me; Or rivers full to very brim, But they are open ways to Him. O Love, O Light, I sing to Thee, And in my heart make melody. My path may lead through woods at night, Where neither moon nor any light
Of guiding star or beacon shines;
He will not let me miss my signs.
O Love, O Light, I sing to Thee,
And in my heart make melody.

Lord, grant to me a quiet mind,
That trusting Thee—for Thou art kind—
I may go on without a fear,
For Thou, my Lord, art always near.
O Love, O Light, I sing to Thee,
And in my heart make melody

Amy Carmichael

AFTERWORD

As we are confronted daily with pessimism and negativity, we are more in need than ever of the strength that comes from faith. The road to greater faith often seems rugged and inaccessible if we look to our own human resources; but not if we look to the Author of faith Himself and allow Him to guide our journey and lead us step by step down this magnificent and often mysterious path.

Faith is not something allotted to an exceptional few. To germinate this tiny seed of faith, soon capable of moving mountains, the first step is to open your heart to Jesus and ask Him to fill you with His power and light. You can do so with this simple prayer, or another similar one in your own words:

Jesus, I ask that You enter my heart, giving me the gift of faith to believe in You and all that You wish to do in my life. Forgive me for my sins and bless me with the gift of eternal life with You forever.

I men: .1

CHECK OUT THE OTHER BOOKS IN THE TREASURES SERIES!











Today's world is often confusing and unsettling. We seem to have fewer certainties and more insecurity. We've been disillusioned so often that it's easy to fall into skepticism and distrust. There are moments when we feel like Don Quixote battling against the windmills.

This is when faith—defined as the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see—is desperately needed. The more difficult our circumstances, the more valuable our faith becomes, not just for our spiritual growth, but for every aspect of our lives. To create, first we have to dream, and then we have to believe that our dreams can become reality.

The thoughts, reflections, Bible verses, stories, and poems found within these pages are meant to fortify our faith and strengthen the conviction that it is possible to achieve any goal when we proceed with dignity and faith.



