

**Chapter 1 : Faith Quotes ( quotes)**

*The main reason we struggle with faith is that we don't truly know the God in whom we profess to have faith. In our daily lives, we don't trust complete strangers. The more intimately we know someone and the more time we have had to see him "in action," the more likely we are to believe what he says.*

Hard times, health, loss of a job, divorce, abuse, financial burdens—the list is endless when it comes to personal struggle. It is a false teaching that claims that when you become a Christian you will never have upset in your life. Jesus had upset in His life: He never promised that life would be easy for us, but He gave us His promises in scripture to help us when we struggle, whatever the struggles we face may be. I pray that these verses will truly encourage you as you face the challenges of life. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He restoreth my soul: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. For when I am weak, then I am strong. The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident. 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. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Praise the Lord, my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing. Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God. He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—he remains faithful forever. He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free, the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked. The Lord reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. All rights reserved worldwide.

### Chapter 2 : 8 Bible Verses to Remember In Times of Struggle – Beliefnet - Proverbs - Beliefnet

*2. i struggle in my faith because of lack of leadership. ive been looking for someone to have bible study with over the phone and all ive found is people who play.*

Some people go through their entire life and seem to struggle all the way. Choices are sometimes made that lead to a path of turmoil and pain. I think if we are honest with ourselves, we all would have to admit to this struggle. The Bible often talks about this struggle in the midst of spiritual warfare. And the truth of the matter is that we will often bring this struggle upon ourselves by not seeking the Lord with choices and decisions in our life. It is often a repeating cycle of one bad choice leading to another. Scripture is so helpful in this matter and shows how we need to completely rely on God and not to follow the foolish wisdom that comes with listening to our society or our culture. Until the return of Christ, we will always have the battle with the flesh the Apostle Paul uses this wording but we must not let it consume our lives but turn to the unlimited power source of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Consider the following – 1 Corinthians God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. Verses on Struggle 2 Corinthians For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. Be strong and courageous. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Verses About a Struggle for Faith Romans We will have hard times and struggles with many things including our own faith. So glorify God in your body. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, Hebrews Rejoice in the Struggle Romans 5: In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Or you, why do you despise your brother? God never tells us that being a follower of Christ will be easy. But that is not the end of the story. We can rejoice because we know the outcome of this battle. God wants to unleash His power in your life so that you can live in victory. Sometimes even Christians feel that life is just a losing battle. God is more powerful than the devil and he will give you a way to overcome struggles and temptations. Walk close with God. Be in prayer with Him throughout your day and have victory in the midst of the struggle.

### Chapter 3 : The Sustaining Power of Faith in Times of Uncertainty and Testing - Richard G. Scott

*Answer: Many people struggle with their faith at different times in their lives. Some of the most committed and godly leaders have struggled with doubts, just like everyone else. Some of the most committed and godly leaders have struggled with doubts, just like everyone else.*

But what about periods of prolonged suffering or surprise attacks? How do we keep the faith in tough times? I pondered this question just yesterday. After a long stint of peace and tranquility, yesterday proved challenging with flaring emotions, less-than-graceful communication and the temptation to “yet again” go over details. Even with all the reading, all the praying and all the practice of trying to stay peaceful, yesterday was overwhelming, and I found myself begging God to drop me a line. I prayed over and over for Him to bring relief and change the scene. I felt discouraged, depressed and impatient. And then I remembered something: We grow in our faith, and it takes time. The struggle strengthens us. Will we believe anyway? cultivating a more mature faith? Taking that forward step is your faith in action. Lean Into the Faith You Have Chose to remain faithful when there is no visible finish line and no feeling of relief. Lean into it and bear through the discomfort that comes from trusting in what you cannot see. Are you struggling with trusting God? Think of a yoga stretch or new skill; getting to the next level requires a time of discomfort while pushing forward. You will feel and eventually see the difference. Pray for Strength and Guidance During the discomfort, pray that God guides your steps and keeps you strong. Temptation will sway in and out to mislead and falsely appease you, but pray right through it. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak. Keep choosing God over and over and over. Remain Planted in Good Soil When you feel the struggle heavy on your back, bury yourself in more good soil. Surround yourself with loving friends, pop into a church before starting the day, read the Bible, put some encouraging messages where you can see them, attend a service, watch an online sermon, ask someone you love to pray with you or meditate on positive thoughts. As my husband tells me, stay in the Word. The tough times will hit us, but we are living for something bigger.

### Chapter 4 : Bible Verses On Struggle: 22 Helpful Quotes

*The Faith Struggle. Are Christians going through challenging times, if they abide in Christ as they should? The Apostle Paul says in Acts "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."*

This is a truly challenging task, but for some it is nearly impossible. Having faith whether it be towards a higher power or in people, can be more difficult for certain personality types. Here is how your personality type handles having faith. The way INFJs respond to things can definitely be a bit confusing at times, since they feel opposing emotions at times. While there is a largely cynical part of the INFJ, which causes them to struggle with faith, there is big part of them that wants to believe in things they cannot prove. Part of them is connected to this with their intuition, since they might have a strong awareness of something without evidence that others can directly see. While they do often strive for this, it can be a challenging process for them. ENFJs have strong intuitive abilities, which does cause them to believe in things without a details line of proof to show others. This can help them have faith in things they cannot see, even though it can be difficult at times. For ENFJs it is important to rely on their sense of intuition, especially when it comes to people. They do their best to follow what they believe is right, even when their faith can feel a bit shaky sometimes. INFPs follow their gut, and do what feels right for them regardless of the evidence around them. They try to trust their gut and go with the things that feel right for them, regardless of what others try to discredit. ENFPs often go back and forth when it comes to the strength of their faith, but ultimately they believe that there is more than what has been proven, and are willing to consider many different possibilities. They would much rather reserve their judgement until they have facts and proof about something. For the ENTJ things need to be proven before they will rely on them or believe in them. ENTJs definitely struggle to have faith and would much rather have some sort of evidence in order to trust in something or someone. They want to see the facts and have a clear idea of what they are getting themselves into, and so faith is not something that comes naturally for the ENTJ. They often want to seek out those things and find a way to prove it before completely believing in it. INTPs might have intuitive beliefs or thoughts about undiscovered things, but they will spend time analyzing and learning in order to prove them true or false. For them it is definitely difficult to get in touch with their faith, even though they might be searching for it in some ways. They can struggle to find a sense of faith in people or things, and especially in the idea of a higher power. ENTPs want to search out information and seek ways to discover things that can be proven. While their intuition can give them ideas of what something might be, they still want to find the facts behind it. Having faith in a higher power is easier for them if it is something they learned from a young age and have become comfortable with. ISTJs are focused more on what they can prove, and so having faith can be a bit of a challenge for them. They want to see evidence before they believe in something, and rely mostly on proven methods. They believe in basing things on facts, and so simply having faith in something or someone can be truly difficult for them. ESTJs might find it easier to have faith in people or even a higher power, if they developed that faith from a very young age. They are more at ease with what they know, and if this is something they learned from a very young age, it can become a bit easier for them to believe in it. They are often capable of believing in things they cannot see or prove, since they know there is more to life than that. If they have become comfortable with the idea of something it becomes more natural for the ISFJ. This is why they find themselves more connected to their families as well, since they have developed that faith in them. For the ESFJ things are easier to believe in if they grew up learning about it and reaching that level of understanding. They often realize and accept that there are things in the world that cannot be proven with facts, and so they can often have faith from this belief. ESFJs can also have faith in their loved ones, even when that person is making mistakes and not quite proving themselves just yet. It can be a bit difficult for them to believe in the things they cannot see, especially since they are so connected to the physical world around them. Before the ISTP can believe in something, they want to see evidence that is concrete and somewhat obvious. This desire to have things proven can make it truly challenging for the ISTP to have faith in anything they cannot see. They find themselves wanting to have things proven before they can actually believe in their sincerity. ISFP ISFPs can find it difficult to have faith

in things, but at the same time they understand that the world is made up of more than what they can see. ISFPs follow their inner emotions, and allow this to be their guide in life. There are times when they believe in things they cannot see, even though they are connected to the physical world around them. ISFPs often search for faith, and want to be able to believe in something greater than themselves. They want to be capable of believing in things they cannot prove or see, but at the same time they are drawn to the physical world around them. There is a part of the ESFP that desires evidence, and something more tangible than just an inner belief. This part often works against their inner emotions and morals, which often keep them believing in things they cannot see.

### Chapter 5 : SparkNotes: Night: Themes

*The Struggle of Having Faith for Each Personality Type Having faith in anything means believing in something without having proof that you should. This is a truly challenging task, but for some it is nearly impossible.*

The Truth of the Faith as a Struggle for Life 14 October People today, who are indifferent towards so many things, are also indifferent to matters of the faith. But, as will become clear below, none of this is true, both because there have always been people, throughout the course of history, who have been indifferent to religious matters and also because if the souls of such people ever warm, they become fervent in the faith, to the point where they surpass, spiritually, many who have been in the Church for years. One of the causes of indifference is the sense which many people have that they know quite enough about the faith. If priests and lay people say a couple of words to them about the Gospel, they receive the answer: This is even more the case now when religious education in schools is epistemological and cultural, with a very slight nod towards Orthodoxy as the dominant faith in Greece. But between the narrative and its interpretation, there is recorded the particular question of the disciples concerning the exposition of the parable, and thereafter a word from the Lord which is based on a prophecy in Isaiah. The disciples ask the meaning and significance of the parable and the Lord replies: In this way He would escape their wrath. We can see the weakness of this interpretation when we recall that Christ went freely to His voluntary passion and that those who tried to discourage Him, such as Peter, were met with sharp rebukes Matth. So how can it be claimed that Christ spoke in parables in order to hide and not provoke people? Cyril of Alexandria explains: But the aim of the parables is not merely to instruct. Let no one be deceived by imagining exactly what mysterious, conspiratorial or apocryphal thing lies behind the words of the Lord. Typically, they had superficial religiosity and tremendous self-centredness. How was He to reveal the truth to people with such spiritual symptoms, which, over time, can be observed in the whole of humankind? But on the other hand, how could He be unfair to those who were genuinely seeking the truth? Christ establishes the truth of the faith as a struggle for life. Christ wants us to turn freely and whole-heartedly to Him and His truth which is why, for the preservation of free and selfless love, He has arranged for us the period of apprenticeship which is the dominant feature of the lives of the saints. And this lies in a continuous apprenticeship in the truth of the faith- not in the reading of books, but in the practical experience of our spiritual struggle and the sacraments of the Church. The saving truth of the faith, as the only truth on earth, is the most important and valuable thing God gives us, but, in order to acquire it we have to earn it with whole-hearted love and eager striving.

### Chapter 6 : Why do so many people struggle with a lack of faith?

*Verses About a Struggle for Faith Romans As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. We will have hard times and struggles with many things including our own faith.*

How can I overcome the fact that I am struggling with faith? Many people struggle with their faith at different times in their lives. Some of the most committed and godly leaders have struggled with doubts, just like everyone else. The very essence of faith is to believe in that which we cannot see Hebrews As physical beings, we tend to put faith in what we experience with our senses. Spiritual realities are not tangible and must be experienced outside our senses. So, when that which is tangible and visible seems overwhelming, doubts can shroud that which is invisible. The first aspect to consider is the object of faith. The word faith has become popular in recent years, but the popular meaning is not necessarily the same as the biblical meaning. The term has become synonymous with any religious or irreligious adherence, regardless of whether there is foundational truth upon which to base such adherence. All faith claims are not equal. Before we can be secure in our faith, we must answer the question: Many hold to the idea of having faith in faith. Faith itself is seen as the object, rather than God Himself. The biblical purpose for faith is to bring us into the presence of God. He desires that we pursue Him with passion, the same way He pursues us 1 John 4: However, God understands our inability to exercise the faith we need at times. So, if we have the desire to believe what the Bible teaches, then we have the right foundation for continuing to fight for faith. God has given us countless evidences of His existence and character Psalm Jesus fulfilled all prophecies necessary to validate His claim to be the Son of God Matthew 2: The Bible has been proven true over and over again for thousands of years. We have all the evidence we need, but God leaves the believing up to us. It can be encouraging to remember that, when we struggle with faith, we are in good company. Elijah the prophet experienced such a struggle. Yet the next chapter finds Elijah hiding in a cave, depressed and asking for death 1 Kings After all those miracles, he gave in to fear and doubt because a wicked woman hated him 1 Kings During times of stress and exhaustion, we can easily forget all that God has done for us. John the Baptist was another who struggled with faith when at the lowest point in his life. Jesus had called John the greatest prophet Matthew John had been selected by God before birth to be forerunner of the Messiah Luke 1: He was faithful to that calling all of his life Mark 1: He sent messengers to ask Jesus if He was truly the One sent from God. Jesus did not rebuke John in his weakness but instead sent him a message that only a student of the Scriptures as John was would recognize Luke 7: He quoted from Isaiah 61 and reminded John that He alone had fulfilled that Messianic prophecy. We learn from these heroes of faith that God is patient with us when we desire to believe Psalm When we experience times of doubt, we must immerse ourselves in truth. Lewis or Lee Strobel. Podcasts by apologists such as Ravi Zacharias or Dr. John Lennox can also add fuel to the fire of our faith. Lord, help my unbelief! And we can expect Him to answer.

**Chapter 7 : 15 Top Bible Verses for Faith in Hard Times - Encouraging Scriptures**

*9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.*

Email Faith in God and in His guidance through the Holy Spirit will sustain you in an increasingly more challenging world. Who does not have need of assurance in times of uncertainty and testing? Who is so self-confident that there is never want for a stabilizing influence in life? A fundamental purpose of earth life is personal growth and attainment. Consequently, there must be times of trial and quandary to provide opportunity for that development. What child could ever grow to be self-supporting in maturity were all the critical decisions made by parents? So it is with our Heavenly Father. His plan of happiness is conceived so that we will have challenges, even difficulties, where decisions of great importance must be made so that we can grow, develop, and succeed in this mortal probation. I speak of the sustaining power of faith in times of uncertainty and testing. God has given us the capacity to exercise faith, that we may find peace, joy, and purpose in life. However, to employ its power, faith must be founded on something. There is no more solid foundation than faith in the love Heavenly Father has for you, faith in His plan of happiness, and faith in the capacity and willingness of Jesus Christ to fulfill all of His promises. For some, faith is not understood and consequently not used to full advantage. Some feel that any discussion of religion and the guidance one can receive through robust faith have no rational basis. However, faith is not illusion nor magic but a power rooted in eternal principles. Are you one who has tried to exercise faith and has felt no benefit? If so, you likely have not understood and followed the principles upon which faith is founded. An example will illustrate what I mean. Years ago I participated in the measurement of the nuclear characteristics of different materials. The process used an experimental nuclear reactor designed so that high energy particles streamed from a hole in the center of the reactor. These particles were directed into an experimental chamber where measurements were made. The high energy particles could not be seen, but they had to be carefully controlled to avoid harm to others. One day a janitor entered while we were experimenting. Had that man been willing to open his mind to understand how the presence of nuclear particles is detected, he would have confirmed their existence. In like manner, never doubt the reality of faith. You will gather the fruits of faith as you follow the principles God has established for its use. Some of those principles are: Trust in God and in His willingness to provide help when needed, no matter how challenging the circumstance. Obey His commandments and live to demonstrate that He can trust you. Be sensitive to the quiet prompting of the Spirit. Act courageously on that prompting. Be patient and understanding when God lets you struggle to grow and answers come a piece at a time over an extended period. Motivating faith is centered in trust in the Lord and in His willingness to answer your needs. You can learn to use faith more effectively by applying this principle taught by Moroni: Those feelings will fortify your faith. As you repeat that pattern, your faith will become stronger. The Lord knows your needs. When you ask with honesty and real intent, He will prompt you to do that which will increase your ability to act in faith. With consistent practice, faith will become a vibrant, powerful, uplifting, inspiring force in your life. As you walk to the boundary of your understanding into the twilight of uncertainty, exercising faith, you will be led to find solutions you would not obtain otherwise. I testify that I know that is true. Even if you exercise your strongest faith, God will not always reward you immediately according to your desires. Rather, God will respond with what in His eternal plan is best for you. He loves you to a depth and completeness you cannot conceive of in your mortal state. Indeed, were you to know His entire plan, you would never ask for that which is contrary to it even though your feelings tempt you to do so. Sincere faith gives understanding and strength to accept the will of our Heavenly Father when it differs from our own. We can accept His will with peace and assurance, confident that His infinite wisdom surpasses our own ability to comprehend fully His plan as it unfolds a piece at a time. Faith is not just push a button and you get the answer. Yet those trying experiences have been edifying. It is comforting to know that God will never try you more than you can manage with His help. God uses your faith to mold your character. Character is the



manifestation of what you are becoming. Strong moral character results from consistent correct choices in the trials and testing of life. Your faith can guide you to those correct choices. Clearly, it is what you do and what you think about that determine what you are and what you will become. Therefore, the choices you make need to be inspired by the Lord. Others can encourage you to make the right decisions, but those choices must not be prescribed by them. You need to ponder, pray, and exercise faith to willingly make choices consistent with the teachings of the Master. Such choices are made with trust in things that are believed and when acted upon will be confirmed. Only enough guidance is given to lead you aright and not to weaken your growing character. That guidance will solidify your trust in Heavenly Father and the Savior. Faith will forge strength of character available to you in times of urgent need. Such character is not developed in moments of great challenge or temptation. That is when it is used. Character is woven patiently from threads of principle, doctrine, and obedience. In James we read: But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. Worthy character will strengthen your capacity to obediently respond to the direction of the Spirit. Righteous character is what you are becoming. It is more important than what you own, what you have learned, or what goals you have accomplished. It allows you to be trusted. Righteous character provides the foundation of spiritual strength. It enables you in times of trial and testing to make difficult, extremely important decisions correctly even when they seem overpowering. I testify that neither Satan nor any other power can weaken or destroy your growing character. Only you could do that through disobedience. Your exercise of faith builds character. Fortified character expands your capacity to exercise faith. Thus, your confidence in conquering the trials of life is enhanced. And the strengthening cycle continues. The more your character is fortified, the more enabled you are to exercise the power of faith. You get what you pay for in obedience, in faith in Jesus Christ, in diligent application of the truths that you learn. What you get is the molding of your character, with growth in capacity, and the successful completion of your purpose here on earth—to grow through being proven. No matter what occurs, no matter how topsy-turvy the world becomes, you can always have the sustaining power of faith. That will never change. The perfect love of your Father in Heaven will never change. His gospel plan gives life meaning and can assure your happiness. His plan is not only to prove yourself here on earth but also that you may receive the growth that comes from correct decisions prompted by faith, enabled by your obedience. Why worry about future calamities or uncertainties over which you have no control? Your righteous character magnifies the probability that you will never have to suffer them. When challenges and testing do come, your faith will lead you to solutions. Your peace of mind, your assurance of answers to vexing problems, your ultimate joy depend upon your trust in Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. Right will ultimately prevail. It will yield blessings now as you in faith obey the commandments of God. Remember an unfailing, continual, ever-present source of peace and comfort is available to you. It is the certainty that your Father in Heaven loves you no matter what your circumstance, no matter what winds of trial, turmoil, or tribulation whirl about you. That certainty will never change. Your ability to access that support depends on the strength of your faith in Him and in His certain willingness to bless you. I testify that faith in God and in His guidance through the Holy Spirit will sustain you in an increasingly more challenging world. I testify that the application of the principles we have reviewed will help you avail yourself of the sustaining power of faith in times of uncertainty and testing.

Chapter 8 : Struggle Faith Quotes | Struggle Quotes about Faith | Faith Struggle Quotes

*The sexual-abuse scandals that have rocked the church this year have left some of the country's most devoted Catholics questioning how to reconcile their longtime faith with the realities of the.*

I have only the most amateur knowledge of music, but the impression one gets about Mozart is that, from him, music flowed. There is something effortless and effervescent about his compositions. He carried the worries of the world lightly. Advertisement Not so Beethoven, for whom it sometimes took years for an idea to crystallize into its final form, with countless drafts and revisions and crossings-out. This was a man who could be angry with himself and with the world, for whom creativity was a struggle from which he emerged triumphant with work that is rarely less than strenuous and full of conflict until its final majestic resolution. The ethereal, mystical, almost other-worldly quality of his last compositions, the sublime late piano sonatas and string quartets, are the creation of one who has finally found peace after a life of wrestling with his own angels and demons. All of this is, for me, a way of coming to understand Jacob, the man who became Israel, our father in faith. Jacob is not the most obvious choice of religious hero. He was a man surrounded by conflict: His life seems to have been a field of tensions. Then there were his transactions: In each case he seems to have won, but then his situation deteriorates. Almost the same deception he practiced on Isaac, he suffered at the hand of Laban. Even his escape from Laban might have ended in tragedy, had God not warned him not to harm Jacob Hence the passage in the Haggada: His life as portrayed in the Torah seems to be a constant series of escapes from one trouble to the next. So who and what was Jacob? To this there are two radically different answers. His motives were always pure. This is an extreme portrayal, but not without scriptural basis. Besides which, as Maharatz Chajes says in his Introduction to the Aggadic Literature, midrash paints biblical characters in moral black-and-white for obvious moral and educational reasons. It is difficult to teach children how to behave if all you have to offer is a series of studies in ambiguity, complexity and shades-of-grey. The other Jacob, though, is the one we read in the plain sense of the text. The obvious question is: The Torah is highly selective in the details it chooses to relate. Why not paint Jacob in more attractive colors? It seems to me that the Torah is delivering, here as elsewhere, an extraordinary message: In every other religious literature known to me, heroes are idealized until they no longer seem human at all. They are Divine or semi-Divine, perfect and infallible. There is no one like that in the whole of Tanach. Even Noah righteous, perfect is seen drunk and dishevelled. Even Job blameless, upright eventually curses his fate. The man who, more than any other, epitomizes fallibility is Jacob. And perhaps that is the point. Jacob was a Beethoven, not a Mozart. His life was a series of struggles. Nothing came easily to him. He, alone of the patriarchs, was a man who chose to be chosen. Abraham was called by God. Isaac was chosen before his birth. Not until he was running away from home did God appear to him. Not until years later, alone, at night, terrified at the prospect of meeting Esau, did God or an angel wrestle with him. He alone was given, by God or the angel, a completely new name, not an enhancement of his old one but a completely new identity: There are saintly people for whom spirituality comes as easily as did music to Mozart. But God does not reach out only to saints. He reaches out to all of us.

**Chapter 9 : 25 Encouraging Scripture Verses for those Facing Struggle | Lynn Dove's Journey Thoughts**

*Faith is the trust we place on others or things without giving a thought of doubt. Faith has the power to go to any extent; it gives immense self confidence and courage when you place utmost faith in your action.*

Why do so many people struggle with a lack of faith? What we see here is a contrast between truth and perception—what we know and believe to be true and what we perceive to be true. This is where the Christian struggle with a lack of faith finds its basis. The main reason why so many Christians struggle with a lack of faith is that we follow our perceptions of what is true rather than what we know to be true by faith. Perhaps before going any further it may be helpful to come up with a working definition of faith. This definition reduces faith to mere fideism —i. Faith is not belief without proof or belief despite the evidence; rather, faith is a complete trust or confidence in someone or something. That trust or confidence we have in someone is built up over time as he proves himself faithful time and time again. Christianity is a faith-based religion. God has provided us with His Word, the Holy Bible, as a testimony of His faithfulness to His people all throughout history. In its bare essentials, Christianity is faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ claimed to be the promised Messiah and the Son of God. His life was one of perfect righteousness according to the revealed Law of God, His death was an atoning sacrifice for the sins of His people, and He was raised to life three days after His death. When we place our faith and trust in Christ alone for our salvation, God takes our sin and places it on the cross of Christ and awards us, by grace, with the perfect righteousness of Christ. That, in a nutshell, is the Christian message. As Christians, we are called to believe this message and live in light of it. As a result of this lack of perception, our lives often do not reflect the fact that we really believe what we claim to believe. There are many reasons for this phenomenon among Christians. But, if God is essentially a stranger to us, we are less likely to believe what He has said in His Word. The world, the flesh, and the devil often distract us. For those of us living in Europe and North America, that dominant worldview is naturalism, materialism, skepticism, and atheism. These things all afflict us and cause us to struggle with faith. That is why Christians need to be constantly reminded of what Christ has done for us and what our response should be. Our faith is built up as we have the gospel continually preached to us. Our churches need to be built on the solid preaching of the Word and the regular observance of the ordinances. Consider the example of the Israelites in the Old Testament. God had performed great miracles in rescuing His chosen people from slavery in Egypt—the Ten Plagues, the pillar of smoke and fire, and the crossing of the Red Sea. God brings His people to the foot of Mount Sinai, gives them the Law and makes a covenant with them. No sooner does He do this than the people begin to grumble and lose faith. They were no longer walking by faith, but by sight. Despite all the clear miracles God did in their redemption, they lost faith and began to go on their perception. That is why God instructed the new generation of Israelites before going into the Promised Land to continually remind themselves of what God had done for them: God knows that the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak Mark In conclusion, we need to heed the example of the disciple Thomas. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. We learn in the book of Hebrews that without faith it is impossible to please God Hebrews