



“You just Gotta have Faith.”

What people mean is, hang in there, trust God, don't give up

The problem: that phrase is often used as a conversation-stopper instead of a faith-builder

It can sound less like encouragement and more like dismissal

And while trust is essential to faith, one of the primary ways trust grows is not by ignoring questions, but by answering them



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“You just Gotta have Faith.”

**Over time, the church has
sometimes created a culture
where questions feel threatening**

**Sometimes we don't answer questions because
we feel like they're an attack on what we believe**

**Sometimes we don't answer because we've never
thought about the question ourselves**

**Sometimes, we don't answer because we
honestly don't know**



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“You just Gotta have Faith.”

The result is that many people walk around quietly nervous about their faith

They feel guilty for having questions

They assume that doubt must mean something is wrong with them spiritually

“I think I’m losing my faith.”

**And my answer is usually the same:
You’re not losing your faith. You’re growing it**



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What is Faith?

**Faith isn't a light switch
that's either on or off**



Faith is more like a muscle



It grows stronger as it's exercised

**And all of us live somewhere between complete
certainty and complete doubt**

Christianity, at its core, is an evidence-giving faith

God is not threatened by sincere questions



*Summertime
in the*

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Even the Faithful Stumble

Psalm 73 doesn't begin with a question, it begins with a conclusion

"Surely God is good to Israel."

"But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold."



This is Asaph: a worship leader, a teacher, a spiritual leader

Doubt is not a sign of weak faith

Even mature believers can struggle.

Even leaders can wobble





Even the Faithful Stumble

This psalm is not written to celebrate doubt, but to testify to how doubt was answered

He shares his story so that others won't feel alone

So, they'll know that confusion is survivable

So, they'll see that faith can come out the other side stronger





Say the Hard Things Out Loud

Asaph doesn't dance around his issue

***He envied the prosperity of
the wicked. (v. 3)***

***This is what the wicked are like,
always free of care, they go on
amassing wealth. (v. 12)***

***Surely in vain I have kept my heart
pure and have washed my hands in innocence.
All day long I have been afflicted, and every
morning brings new punishments. (v. 13-14)***





Say the Hard Things Out Loud

What's important here is that Asaph doesn't censor himself before God

He doesn't soften his frustration. He pours it out

"Pour out your heart before Him." (Psalm 62:8)



Not some of your heart. Not the polite parts. All of it.

It's hard for God to heal what we refuse to expose

Sometimes healing begins by getting everything out in the open





Don't Turn Doubt into Broadcast

“If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children.” (v. 15)

He is saying it would have been wrong to teach his unresolved conclusions



There's a difference between wrestling with doubt and broadcasting it as truth

Doubt becomes dangerous when it hardens into skepticism

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Don't Turn Doubt into Broadcast

A skeptic prides themselves on seeing through everything, and in the process ends up seeing nothing

We should be free to voice our doubts but we should also have doubts about our doubts

Certainty about doubt is often more dangerous than doubt itself

There's a difference between saying, 'I'm struggling' and saying, 'I've concluded this isn't true.'

One invites help.

The other invites harm



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Think it Through but Know the Limits

When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply. (v. 16)

**Asaph doesn't shut his brain off
He Reasons, He ponders, He thinks deeply**

**God gave us minds, and He expects us
to use them**

Thinking alone didn't resolve it

**The philosopher Blaise Pascal famously
warned of two extremes: **excluding reason,**
or admitting nothing but reason**





Think it Through but Know the Limits

**If there is a reasonable answer,
we should accept it**

**But we also need to recognize that reason
will not always carry us all the way**



***We are hard pressed on every side, but not
crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted,
but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.***

**The issue wasn't lack of intelligence,
it was lack of perspective**

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

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Pursuing God Changes the Angle

Until I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny. (v. 17)

Simply put; in seeking God, he arrived at a safe space

This safe space didn't erase the problem, it reframed it

It took the focus off ourselves, off others, off our circumstances, and place it back where it belongs: on God

Like spokes connected to a hub, everything finds its place when God is central

Asaph begins to see clearly again





What Reframed Focus Reveals *Psalm 73:18-25*

It shows him the end of the wicked

Their lives ultimately collapse in on themselves:

"Like a dream when one awakes." (v. 20)



When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.

(v. 21-22)

**Envy always poisons
the one who carries it**





It reveals the true Goodness of God

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you. But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.

Psalm 73:26-28



Our minds fail us.

Our bodies fail us. But God does not

**God's goodness is not found in
getting what we want apart from Him
It's found in being near Him**





It reveals the true Goodness of God

God holds us, even when we're difficult

**God guides us, when we
don't know the way**

**God receives us, not just at the
end, but forever**

**That's what heaven really is:
Eternal nearness to God**

**Our judgments are imperfect,
but God is dependable**

