

# Question-

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When losing your faith  
because nothing seems to go  
right, how do you gain it  
back?

**It is easy to worship God when things are going great in life** — when desires are provided for; food, friends, family, health, and happy situations.

**But Circumstances are not always pleasant.**

How do you worship God then? What do you do when God seems far and nothing seems to go right?

The truth is there's nothing wrong with you.

This is a normal part of the **testing** and **maturing** of your **friendship with God**.

**Every Christian** goes through it at least once, and usually several times in life, including and especially **very good Christians**.

It is painful and disconcerting, but it is absolutely vital for the development of your faith.

Granted, when things don't go well in relationships, interest is affected because of the experience of your current life.

The loss of interest does not mean you have lost the relationship or are out of the relationship.

**To lose interest in your faith does not mean you have lost your faith**

The desire to revive it only indicates the presence of the Holy Spirit in you.

**Who is the Object and giver of Faith ?**

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**GOD**

# What is the Promise of Faith?

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Eternal Life

Not Long Life

**Faith cannot be based on the physical workings of things around us. When we make the outcome of things the object and center of faith,**

**our faith will constantly be tested.**

**To mature your relationship, God will test it with periods of seeming separation - times when it feels as if he has abandoned or forgotten you.**



# Matt 4:1

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Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted\* by the devil.

\* in the Greek, tempted can also mean tested

Jesus is the perfect model for us when we are in our own spiritual desert.

# You are not alone in your feelings of abandonment...

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John of the Cross, Spanish mystic and poet wrote the *The Dark Night of the Soul*.

In modern times, the phase “dark night of the soul” is used to describe a crisis of faith or a difficult, painful period in one’s life.

He was also a Saint.

**. These days/ years of spiritual dryness**

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## **Spiritual Aridity**

**“The dark night of the soul!”**

**“The ministry of absence.”**

**“The ministry of the night.”**

**“The winter of the heart.”**

# Mk 15: 33-34

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“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Is it possible that Jesus doubted the love of the one he called Abba?  
Did he despair when he was on the cross?

No, here is where being Jewish helps...Jesus began Psalm 22 which Jewish people would know by heart

## Psalm 22

David first spoke these words of abandonment with enemies surrounding him.

Feels like God does not hear him or care

Even so, David never loses FAITH

His anguish leads him to prayer

He remembers God's past faithfulness in Israel's history and in his own personal life

We see David's hope. He knows God will help.

“But you, O LORD, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid!” (Ps 22:19)

We must never stop praying, even in our deepest distress

## Practical Notes:

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- Tell God exactly how you feel
- Even when you don't feel Him, Trust Him.
- He wants you to depend on him and not on your feelings.
- Faith in Him is what pleases him.

# John 17: 1- 3

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“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. <sup>2</sup> For you granted him authority over all people that **he might give eternal life** to all those **you have given him**. <sup>3</sup> Now **this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent**”



# Remember always:

**God is real, no matter how you feel**\_\_\_\_\_

**Friendships** are often tested by separation and silence i.e. you are divided by **physical distance** or you are unable to talk.

**This is same in your relationship with God.**

In a relationship with God, no matter how Intimate, you won't always feel him close.

**There will be times of separation and silence.**

# Spiritual Fervor :

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The ability to be motivated by **God's purpose** and not our personal agenda.

The **ability to continue to love, trust, obey, and worship God**, even when you have no sense of his presence or visible evidence of his work in your life.

**Praising God** in spite of pain, **thanking God** during a trial, **trusting him** when tempted, **surrendering** while suffering, and **loving him** when he seems distant.

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God's **omnipresence** and the **manifestation of His presence** are two different things.

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**Yes, he wants you to sense his presence, but he's more concerned that you trust him than you feel him**

God is always present, even when you are unaware of him in situation.

His presence is too profound to be measured by mere emotion

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Focus on who God is;  
His unchanging Nature

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**Do not seek an  
experience of  
God.**

**Seek God**

“

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

**MATTHEW 6:33**

[faithsharer.com](http://faithsharer.com)

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Trust God to keep His promises  
Remember what He has already  
done for you




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When you are a baby Christian, God gives you a lot of **confirming emotions** and often answers the most immature, self-centered prayers so you'll know he exists.

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But as you grow in faith,  
he will wean you of  
these dependencies



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This is why we need faith. If you want to know why you were placed on this earth, you must begin with God. He made you for Himself, not for yourself. You were born *by his purpose* and *for his purpose*.

If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

Matt 16:24-26

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Your Life's purpose is bigger than your personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or even your happiness.

It's far greater than **your family**, your **career**, or even your wildest **dreams** and **ambitions**.

- ❑ Make a good confession
- ❑ Start praying daily (the rosary is perfect for keeping up a habit of prayer; if you don't know how to pray it, just Google it)
- ❑ Make sure you go to Mass each Sunday
- ❑ Read about your Faith. Trent Horn's new book would be a great place to start.