

SAMANTHA J. WEST

KEEPING THE FAITH DURING HARD TIMES

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Hello!



As a woman of faith, I truly believe in the power of God and how He transforms lives. My passion for ministry stems from my desire to share that transformative power and equip others with the tools needed to gain clarity, unlock their God given potential, and take specific action to achieve their goals and increase their profits.

Equipping others with the tools to succeed in life is a huge priority for me. My goal is to help other leaders establish a high-level vision for their lives and start confidently showing up, little by little, day by day. My hope is that every person I interact with will leave feeling inspired, empowered, and equipped to take on whatever life throws their way.

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INTRODUCTION

Christians must learn how to keep faith in God during hard times. One of the reasons God give us challenges is to test our faith so that He can build us up and prepare us for everything He wants to bless us with. The challenges are designed to draw you closer to Him not, turn you away from Him.

You are not designed to lose faith in God, you are designed by God to walk by faith with Him to fulfill your God-given destiny.

Your faith walk is one you have to guard jealously because it is like the air you breathe in for survival. There is nothing anyone can do to keep challenges away; they must come. The most important thing you can do is ensure you keep faith in God during hard times.

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

Keeping faith in God during hard times is all about your decision to keep your trust in Him and His Word whenever you are faced with difficult situations. When you said yes to God, you chose to have unwavering faith to hold on to His promises in difficult times. And as a result of your vow to God, you don't want to use an alternative solution to get your much-needed solutions in difficult situations.

Why does God put us through hard times?

Let's look at the following Bible verses about faith in hard times:

- “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world, you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).
- ‘Woe to the world because of offenses. For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!’ (Matthew 18:7)

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

- ‘Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?’ (Romans 8:35)

Now that you have read those Bible scriptures, let's look at some of the reasons why God allows us to go through hard times.

- **To strengthen us** - “But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you” -1 Peter 5:10)
- **So we can help others** - “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.” – 2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

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- **To produce patience in us** - “And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope” – Romans 5:3-4
- **To show us that He has the power to save and deliver us** - “Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all” – Psalm 34:19)
- **To test our loyalty** - “Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart” – Deuteronomy 8:2)

This world is full of challenges. Christians must learn how to keep faith in God during hard times.

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

The Just shall live by faith

Hebrews 10:38, “Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him”.

Pleasers of God are faith walkers

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him .

Hebrews 11:6"

We are required to be pleaser of God if we want to experience His mighty hand of power which is clearly at work on this earth. You can't please God if you are not working or walking by faith!

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

The miracles you desire to receive during hard times will not manifest if you don't learn the process or the workings of faith.

When Christian faith is mastered, and you walk in it fully, you will get the needed miracles and answers to your prayers you seek during hard times.

“Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him”. Hebrews 10:38

The just or the righteous, that is, Christians don't have any other way to live their lives except through faith. You don't live by doubt, worry, anxiety, fear or doubt, you live by faith. Anything different from this is from the devil and will surely limit how you connect with God to get miracles or solutions to your problem with the power of God.

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

Is There a Faith Process?

Yes, there is and you are expected to learn and understand the faith process so that you can always have the strength to move and overcome your troubles during hard times. When you understand the faith process, you will be qualified to run the faith races effectively.

“Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed – that exhilarating finish in and with God – he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever. And now he’s there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. Hebrews 12:2.”

The advice is simple and direct - keep your eyes fixed on all Jesus did to win the faith race”

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

Simple but tough

Though that advice and statement are simple, straightforward and very clear it is usually difficult for Christians to understand and stick to it. There are many reasons for this: the devil and his activities, the flesh, the world, and its influence, and so on.

But we can have victories over all these obstacles because Jesus has done the same and if we have the required knowledge and understanding of what He did.

You Must Be Qualified to Run the Faith Race

you can't run the faith race successfully if you are not qualified to do so by God. Those who try to do anything contrary to this have always failed to get results or have been badly wounded in the process.

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

Jesus ran the race as a qualified 'Athlete'. He was deeply connected to God, the Father and He maintained that connection all through. Jesus did not just run the race maintaining a connection to the Father; He also finished the job so that you and I can also run the race successfully. He gave His life on the cross at Cavalry shedding His blood to wash our sins. Sin is the barrier that prevents people from running the faith race effectively.

If you want to be qualified to run this race effectively, you must decide to forsake your sinful ways and accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

Salvation first before you can run the faith race

If you want to do that now, say this simple prayer below with all your heart.

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

“God, I am a sinner, forgive me my sins. Use the blood of Jesus Christ to wash me clean from my sins. I know Jesus Christ is the Son of God and I know He died for my sins shedding His blood for my sins. I accept Him as my Lord and Savior today. Thank you for answering my prayers, I know and believe that I am saved now. “

Congratulations. You are born again. You are qualified to run the faith race successfully. This is the beginning of greater things to come and how you can begin to benefit immensely from walking by faith with God to stand strong during hard times and to solve your problems.

Faith results are fixed and settled

The great thing about the faith race is, the results are already fixed and settled to favor you, the Christian. This is what makes the faith race a delight to run.

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

“If I am going to run a race and I know that I will only have a victory result at the end of the race then I will always be ready and excited to run the race.

“Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed – that exhilarating finish in and with God – he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever. And now he’s there, in the place of honor, right alongside God.” Hebrews 12:2 (MSG)

This is a very clear message and it further demonstrates the valuable work Jesus came to do on the earth for us. Apart from offering His life on the cross shedding His blood to die for our sins, Jesus also ran the faith race for us and completed it. He won the race and credited the result to us. We can run the faith race and be assured of having a victory result even before we start the race.

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

“Isaiah 55:11, “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please.”

That is a fixed result declaration from God. The moment God sends out His Word to you on an issue, you can be sure that the result of victory is already prepared and delivered.

No faith race should be embarked upon without the Word of God in place. God’s Word is the Chief organizer for a successful faith race. With His Word in place, the faith race is kick-started and the result of the race is victory.

But just to clear things up a bit, the walk is difficult and it is not easy by any means.

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

It is a process to have faith in God during hard times

The result of the faith race was handed over to us by our Lord Jesus Christ however, that does not mean we can be careless and lazy as we run the faith race. There is always something you and I have to do after God has done His part.

I think this is where lots of Christians miss it. There is work to do. The truth is, the faith race is not like that, there is work that has to be done. You have to follow a process to claim the victory that Jesus has graciously and selflessly given to you.

Jesus declared in Luke 18:8 “Nevertheless when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” Jesus knew that Christians may not be able to follow the due process to run the faith race and claim the victory He was going to get for them. This was the reason why He asked that question.

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

Your faith race should be in order

Naturally we want to have something done for us or get solutions to problems without following due process. But God and His Word and His Principles do not work that way. God's Word says we should let all things be done decently and in order. God is a God of order and the faith race or process is expected to be in order.

Christians also tend to want God to abandon His ideals and principles just to favor them. God will not do that and He expects you to learn the process in order to walk with Him effectively. Some of us follow orders in our jobs and even in our homes but we don't want to do this in our faith walk with God.

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

How do you jump the gun?

- **When you start the faith race without a Word of God to stand on:** Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). There will be no result if your faith race starts without God's Word as the foundation.
- **If you start with God's Word but abandon it after you have started:** It is just like how the older generations of the children of Israel failed to get to the Promised Land after they started well in Egypt. They abandoned God's Word and lost their lives in the wilderness.

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

How do you jump the gun?

- **When your confession is completely different from what you are praying about:** This is important and most Christians miss it here. If you are waiting on God for healing you should never confess that you are sick again. The faith process is a spiritual experience that brings physical manifestation. Our major connection to the spirit realm is through our spoken words.
- **When you associate with faithless friends:** Pray and ask God to send you the right friends. Faithless friends are just what they are – faithless friends. They will not help you to follow the faith process effectively during hard times or when you desire a miracle from God.

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

How do you jump the gun?

- **When you stop praying about it:** If you have started praying about an issue using God's Word, you should not stop doing so until you receive the physical manifestation of what you want. Isaiah 62: 6-7 puts this very aptly: "You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth!"
- **When you go into sin:** The prayer of a sinner is an abomination unto God (Proverbs 21: 27) (Proverbs 15:9). I believe this should be obvious. You can't enjoy your sins and also expect to have God's power available for you to solve your problem.

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

How do you jump the gun?

- **When you lose hope:** Hope and faith work together. You can't effectively run the faith race and get a winners medal if you don't put your hope in place. Hope is a partner in progress to faith. When hope is in place, it goes a long way to determine what you say, how you take your prayer lines and sessions, the plans you make, who you discuss issues with, and more.

Results will come

Whatever problem you are expecting God to solve for you will get to you when you follow the process to run the faith race. God says in His Word: "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please" Isaiah 55:11.

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

You need to focus dangerously

The faith race is one that requires lots of focus and concentration if you really want to take delivery of your expectations. Daniel, in the Old Testament, started out to run the race in Daniel 10:13-21. However, unknown to him, there was serious evil opposition in the spiritual realm to stop him from receiving his expectation.

The answer to his prayers had been released right from the first day of his prayer session but the devil hindered it from getting to him. Thank God Daniel persisted and focused on his prayers and the faith process, he would have missed the result of his faith race.

There will always be opposition to our faith race from the camp of the devil. They know you will always have the results when you embark on a faith race because of the victory Jesus has given to us so they began to use the strategy of getting you distracted.

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

You must set your eyes dangerously on the set goals and expectations for your prayers until you receive it physically.

Consistent spiritual exercise is needed

Those who run successful ~~faith~~ races all through their lifetime are people who maintain a consistent spiritual exercise schedule. It is one of the secrets that made them win lots of victories over problems, obstacles, the devil, and his companions.

Jesus was also always in the presence of the Father. He once said, “I can of my own do nothing as I hear I judge.” John 5:30.

This clearly shows that He relied heavily on the Father for His day-to-day decisions and actions. If this is so then He had to keep a consistent spiritual exercise and schedule.

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

- **You need good health:** Good food in the scripture is the Word of God. You need to be a consistent student of the Word of God. It is only if you know the Word of God that you will know the will of God. When you know the will of God, you will know how you will pray effectively. You will also be able to know your rights as a Christian. You can't really run an effective faith race if you are not a good student of God's Word. Jesus said the Word that I speak to you"
- **You need a good coach:** God's Word says, "Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise." Proverbs 6; 6. I also read in James 1:5-6, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

God clearly wants us to learn consistently to improve our spiritual strength.

Holy Spirit is the Coach of all coaches. He is the Coach you must have in your team if you hope to run successful faith races consistently. Jesus in John 16:13 said, “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears”. John 16:13.

No Christian can successfully live a victorious Christian life on this earth that is full of darkness without the Holy Spirit.

There are sharks and beasts out there that are determined to stop you from running the faith race successfully. With the Holy Spirit, you can always have the right mentorship to run your faith races successfully.

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

If you want to maintain a healthy spiritual exercise, you must learn to get involved in the right spiritual environment. The right spiritual environment is when you ensure you are regularly on your knees conversing with God in prayer. The prayer platform is one you can't play with if you really want to always run successful faith races.

When you talk to God in prayer He talks back to you. This type of relationship goes a long way to make God's quality rub on you consistently. When you become more like Him, you will always want to trust Him with your request and in your faith walk with Him.

Only lazy and unserious Christians take lightly the need to pray consistently.

Even Jesus was always on the prayer platform during His short ministry on this earth (Luke 6:12). Paul wrote, "Pray without ceasing." Both of them demonstrated how to successfully run faith races on this earth.

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

Another important way to get involved in the right spiritual environment is when you learn to be obedient to little instructions from God and His Word. In the spiritual environment, so much attention is given to the practice of obedience. It determines the ones who are truly great faith soldiers. Even the devil knows you can't really trust God for big things if you have not been obedient to simple instructions.

One strategy of the devil and his cohorts has always being to make Christians disobey God. They know that once disobedience has set in, they can have the opportunity to perpetuate their evil plans.

When obedient children and lovers of God disobey God, they always regret their actions and make a decision to avoid the mistake again. They always cry to God to help them when they are consistently disobedient in their lives.

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

If you are an obedient child of God you will always be a good player in the spiritual environment. When you are very competitive in this environment, you will always have the strength to run successful faith races.

Master the process and get results always

Jesus was ready to put up with anything in order to run His faith race to the cross. Jesus understood the relevance of following the process. He knew that if He failed to follow the process, He will not be able to get the winners medal. He did not lose sight of where He was headed. He kept the sure end result in His sight and He eventually got the winners medal.

The message is simple: If you don't follow the process you will not be able to run successful faith races!

What does it mean to keep faith in God during hard times?

What Happens When You're Failing in the Process?

The goal is that you always be an organized, dedicated, and consistent student of God's Word. Read, study, and meditate on the Word so you won't fail the race.

Conclusion

Finally, you should be at peace knowing that you get a settled result when you run the faith race. Let your eyes and attention be focused on it. When you are at this stage, all you will want is the result and any obstacle that comes against you during the process will not stop you. You will deal with them according to God's will.

Thank-you!

I'm so excited you made it to the end. Even though it is only a brief synopsis, I hope this e-book helps you keep your faith in God during difficult times.

Let's work together. Please reach out to learn more.



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