



TOUGH

AS

NAILS

I KNOW THAT NO MATTER HOW HARD IT GETS
IF YOU HAVE JESUS,
YOU ARE TOUGH
ENOUGH



**WHEN THE GOING
GETS TOUGH, THE
TOUGH LEARN TO**

BELIEVE



Matthew 27:41-44 ESV

⁴¹ So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴² “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God;

Matthew 27:41-44 ESV

let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴ And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

- 5** Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
- 6** in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.

**GOD DEVELOPS US THROUGH
POWERFUL QUESTIONS THAT
DARE US TO BELIEVE HIM IN
THE FACE OF IMPOSSIBLE
SITUATIONS.**

**GOD ASKS US QUESTIONS FOR
TWO REASONS:**

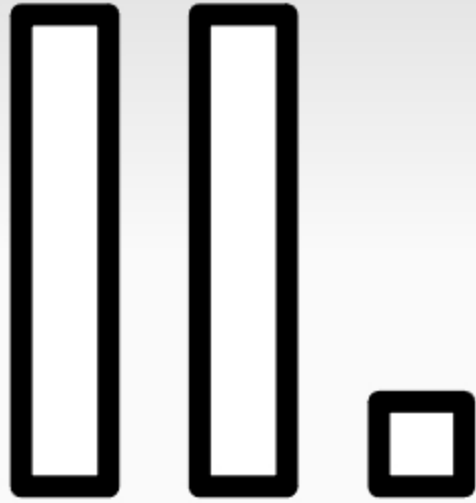
GOD ASKS US QUESTIONS FOR TWO REASONS:

**To DECREASE
our faith in
OURSELVES.**

GOD ASKS US QUESTIONS FOR TWO REASONS:

**To DECREASE
our faith in
OURSELVES.**

**To INCREASE
our faith in
HIM.**



**A STORY WHEN GOD
ASKS SOMEONE A
QUESTION AND DRAWS
THEM TO A HIGHER
LEVEL OF BELIEF.**

Genesis 12:1-2 NLT

¹ The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. ² I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others.”

**THE TIMING OF GOD'S
PROMISES IN OUR LIVES IS
OFTEN A DIVINE SET-UP THAT
FORCES US TO BELIEVE HIM
FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE.**

Genesis 15:5-6 NLT

⁵ Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, “Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have!”

⁶ And Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith.

Genesis 17:15-18 NIV

¹⁵ God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. ¹⁶ I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”

Genesis 17:15-18 NIV

¹⁷ Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, “Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?” ¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, “If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!”

**IF WE ARE GOING TO LIVE BY
FAITH THEN WE MUST RESIST
THE TEMPTATION TO OFFER
OUR CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO
PROBLEMS THAT ONLY GOD
CAN SOLVE.**

Genesis 18:9-14a NLT

⁹ “Where is Sarah, your wife?” the visitors asked.

“She’s inside the tent,” Abraham replied.

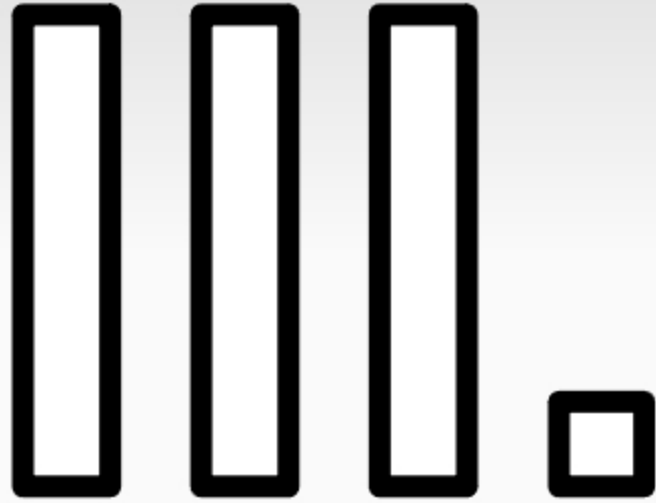
¹⁰ Then one of them said, “I will return to you about this time next year, and your wife, Sarah, will have a son!”

Genesis 18:9-14a NLT

Sarah was listening to this conversation from the tent. ¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were both very old by this time, and Sarah was long past the age of having children. ¹² So she laughed silently to herself and said, “How could a worn-out woman like me enjoy such pleasure, especially when my master—my husband—is also so old?”

Genesis 18:9-14a NLT

¹³ Then the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say, ‘Can an old woman like me have a baby?’ ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the Lord?”



**FOR MANY OF US, THE
ENEMY OF BELIEF IS**

DELAY.

John 11:3, 5-6 NLT

³ So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, “Lord, your dear friend is very sick.”

⁵ So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, ⁶ he stayed where he was for the next two days. ⁷ Finally, he said to his disciples, “Let’s go back to Judea.”

John 11:17, 21 NLT

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days.

²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died."

**GOD USES DELAY SO WE WILL
BEGIN TO TRUST AND BELIEVE
HIM FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE.**

IV.

**FOUR SIMPLE RESPONSES
WHEN YOU ARE FACING A**

DIVINE

DELAY.

YOU CAN DISABLE GOD.

YOU CAN DISABLE GOD.

Mark 6:1-3 NLT

¹ Jesus left that part of the country and returned with his disciples to Nazareth, his hometown. ² The next Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. They asked,

YOU CAN DISABLE GOD.

Mark 6:1-3 NLT

“Where did he get all this wisdom and the power to perform such miracles?”³ Then they scoffed, “He’s just a carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us.” They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him.

YOU CAN DISABLE GOD.

Mark 6:5-6 NLT

⁵ And because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them. ⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief.

YOU CAN DISCOUNT GOD.

YOU CAN DISCOUNT GOD.

Numbers 23:19 NLT

¹⁹ God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?

YOU CAN DISOWN GOD.

**THERE IS A CRISIS
OF QUITTING IN OUR
CULTURE TODAY.**

YOU CAN DISOWN GOD.

Galatians 6:9 NLT

⁹ So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

**THERE IS NEVER A
HARVEST WITHOUT
A DELAY.**

YOU CAN DISCOVER GOD.

**WE ARE ALWAYS TRANSFORMED
WHEN WE SPEND TIME TRUSTING
AND BELIEVING GOD WHEN IT
LOOKS LIKE HE ISN'T COMING
THROUGH AT ALL.**