

EVERYDAY FAITH

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF JAMES

Everyday Faith Grows in Winter



C.S. Lewis

Before I became a Christian I do not think I fully realized that one's own life, after conversion, would inevitably consist in doing most of the same things one had been doing before, one hopes, in a new spirit, but still the same things.



“Alexamenos worships
his God”



Palatine Alexamenos Graffito,
c. 3rd Century



Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

(vv. 2-4)





George MacDonald

*Everything difficult
indicates something more
than our theory of life yet
embraces. . . .*



If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. . .

(vv. 5)





George MacDonald

Everything difficult indicates something more than our theory of life yet embraces. . . . But there is a reality of being in which all things are easy and plain: oneness, that is, with the Lord of Life; to pray for this is the first thing.

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

(Matthew 7:7-11)



Anna Akhmatova

*The most reliable thing on
earth is sorrow /
And the most enduring—
the Almighty Word.*



. . . But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

(vv. 6-8)





Christian Wiman

Be careful. Be certain that your expressions of regret about your inability to rest in God do not have a tinge of self-satisfaction, even self-exaltation to them, that your complaints about your anxieties are not merely a manifestation of your dependence on them. There is nothing more difficult to outgrow than anxieties that have become useful to us. . . .





Mother Teresa

Clarity is the last thing you are clinging to and must let go of. . . . I have never had clarity; what I have always had is trust. So I will pray that you trust God.



Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

(vv. 12)

*Be faithful unto death, and I will
give you the crown of life.*

(Revelation 2:10)

And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

*“Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power. . . .*

(Revelation 4:10,11)





C.S. Lewis

If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So that when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, 'Daddy, give me sixpence to buy you a birthday present.' Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child's present.

