

God Is In The Details

*Faith*

**F**ather **A**llow **I**ris **T**hine **H**appiness

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*Learning to Lean  
on God*

Iris M Williams

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*Learning to Lean  
on God*



# *Also by Iris M Williams*

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*An Abundant Life (The Workbook):*

*A Woman's Guide to Living Life Abundantly*

*Frankie Froggy and The Butterfly Birthmark*

*Did My Daddy Leave Me*

*Jordan, Mac and The Mustard Seed*

*Cancer, Are You Listening?*

# *God Is In The Details*

A series of books that are designed to inform, inspire and intellectualize you as you maneuver your way in your walk with God. This first book, **Faith**, will help you to understand what faith is, why you should have it and the benefits from learning this skill.

# *Dedication*

To my children whom I love very much. I wasn't the best mom when you were younger as I didn't lead by example. However, I have come to understand that parenting is a job you have for life and to that end I choose now to lead by offering a better example. I pray that you are able to focus on the things I am doing and will do and pardon me for the things I've done/didn't do.



*“... when you learn, teach”*

**Maya Angelou**

# *Foreword*

It is not by chance that my dear friend **Iris Williams** is writing a book on Faith. How fitting is this title for such a time in which we now live. Faith is a powerful word, for we all have faith in many things.

Hebrews 11:1 says “Now Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

I have witnessed the faith of this fine author increase to a vast degree within a very short time.

Faith is a universal act that we all struggle with at some points in our lives. To see Iris as a young Christian step out on her faith in Christ, (because it is ours and not what someone tells us to believe) I was often encouraged myself. Taking a giant leap of faith during a time that she was so unsure must have been very hard for her. I am grateful to have experienced seeing her trust in the Lord and grow stronger in her faith. As I encourage my friend through her journey my prayer to God is, **F**ather **A**llow **I**ris **T**hine **H**appiness.

I am blessed that He has made us god friends, and that I can honestly say that I have observed Hebrews 10:22-24 in her life:

“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed in pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering ;( for he is faithful that promised ;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to do good works.”

The Christian walk is all about faith and faithful friends. I am most excited that the Lord has given us all someone to walk alone side us to remind us that Jesus is our Faithful Friend; and He will be there until the end. God bless the author and the reader of this great book, may it remind us all of the importance of faith in Him alone.

*Arethea Martin Green*

# *Acknowledgments*

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## *Introduction*

The single most important lesson I have ever learned in my life centers around faith. God is my source. Period. He allows good and He allows bad – but it all comes from Him.

There was a time in my life when I thought that I was in control and that I was the one ‘handling’ things. From that high up (I wasn’t really ‘elevated’ but with your nose in the air it can sure seem like you are high above everyone else!) I didn’t think much about God except for during the obligatory times like saying grace, prayers at night, Thanksgiving dinner etc. When I think about it now, I’m truly ashamed!

However, God didn’t send me here to make lots of money at an insurance company, hoard ‘things’ and watch life pass me by uninspired, un-influential and un-impacted. Which is why even though I had lots and lots of ‘things’ I still felt dissatisfied. I knew and felt something was missing. I just didn’t know what ...

In His infinite wisdom, He allowed me to take the long road around to Him. Yea, I could have done things ‘simpler’ but you and I both know that most times that’s just not how it happens.

Long story short – I successfully lost all I had and most of my friends too. Loved ones even fell to the wayside. One day I looked around and all I had once held dear was gone. It was just me – and God. After I got done crying, I decided to talk to Him. And guess what, He talked back!

# *Prologue*

God is the greatest orchestrator I know. While I was busy tearing down my life – He was behind the scenes building it back up. He sent people in my life who would become highly influential to the rebirth of me. In the course of nearly two years I was torn completely down. But almost simultaneously, He also helped me get started on a new foundation.

For everything that was taken, He sent something or someone in its place!

For instance, I lost the love of my life – but I also gained a new found respect and love for myself. Something I'd never experienced before.

For the first time in my life I realized that all the things I'd been through was at the hands of my own doing. No one 'does' things to you – you allow things to happen.

Looking back, there was not one bad relationship that I was in that I didn't know would be bad from the beginning. There were (and are always) signs. Most of us just tend to overlook them because we are so busy being in love, in lust or infatuated with whatever shiny new thing it is.

Because I found Jesus, I found me. And with that new relationship I developed standards. I'm still amazed at how much drama and hurt I've managed to avoid simply by having some. If you don't have any – get some and you'll see what I'm saying. It's empowering to know that you are the driver of your life. Sure God controls it all but remember He allows

Iris M. Williams

us free will so if you want to drive your car in a ditch – he will oblige!

One of the standards I got for my life was to have faith. Up until that point, most of my decisions were bad but this one – yea, it was the turning point for me.



“Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant  
in prayer;”

Romans 12:12

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# **Lesson 1**

## *Faith Revealed*

## *Forbearance*

What does it mean to have faith?

**Y**ears ago if you'd ask me if I believed in God I would have said yes and if you asked me if I had faith I would have responded ABSOLUTELY. Truth is, I had no real idea about either. I knew 'of' God but I didn't know Him on an intimate level. My mother used to say, "You got to know the Lord for yourself!" I always wondered what she meant but now, I can say for certain that 1) I know God and 2) I have faith!

When my life literally fell apart in front of me, God was all that was left and while I didn't know it at the time, turns out He was all I needed. I was like a new car that had been left in the elements for a 100 years – my exterior was worn and rusted but my motor, my inside, my soul was good and strong.

When there was no one to turn to – I turned to God. Without all the distractions of a 'big life', I got to know how big my God is! He kept me through times when I didn't know where or how things were going to be 'alright'. He made ways out of no ways and literally 'kept me' when I couldn't keep myself.

Faith goes past believing – it's actually *knowing* that things will be fine even when you have no reason to believe or there are no indications that things will be alright. The key to faith is your heart and your intentions. Unlike man, God looks past your station and your status and He sees your sincerity. I had grown weary of my 'life' and while I was still in my situation,

I began to pray to Him and ask Him to deliver me and He did. It really is as simple as that ...

Things to consider in your faith walk:

- Do you have faith?
- How has it been tested?
- What can you do to gain/strengthen faith?

Notes:

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“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;”

**James 1:2**

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# **Lesson 2**

*Faith Required*

# *Attitude*

What type of attitude should you have?

I've heard it said that God wants us to be 'cheerful givers' and not be solemn in our giving. Have you ever asked anyone for something and they said yes, but their attitude and mannerisms told you that they didn't really want to but were doing it from obligation or guilt? It's not a good feeling is it? So why do we think God wants us to give our lives to him that way?

When you give to God you should do so happily because remember the more you give, the more He gives back to you. Think of it as a savings program that guarantees a 'double for your trouble' return. Giving is more than just money or time, it's also your attitude. We as Christians are supposed to be 'the light' to the world. We are to be the examples others look to when they want to know what it is like to be Christian. How do you think we look to non-Christians when we walk around solemn and sullen over so-called tests of faith?

Before I began my Christian walk I would see sad, worn down and lack luster Christians and think to myself, "If that's what it's like to serve God I'll just wait until I'm 70 to do it. That way I can have fun before I die!"

First of all I thank God for his mercy because He could have saw fit to take my life before now and I wouldn't have had the opportunity to get to know Him, serve Him or share His word! Second, I was wrong as two left shoes (And so were those 'sad-looking' Christians but that's another book!). There is Joy in serving God!

Things to consider in your faith walk:

- What attitude do you have during tests/trials?
- How can you change worry into worship?
- What is the difference between joy and happy?

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“But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the  
Almighty giveth them understanding.”

**Job 32:8**

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# **Lesson 3**

*Faith Realized*

# *Instinct*

What role does intuition play in faith?

I believe that God sends us here with what we need. When we cut ourselves, the wound heals in a matter of a day. Colds, aches and pains generally last a day or two and then it passes. Fevers fight off disease and headaches can subside on their own if we rest.

So if God designed our physical bodies to heal, he also designed a way for us to communicate with him directly. Have you ever heard someone say, “I should have followed my first mind?” Or “something told me to do this or that”. That I believe is the voice of God whispering to us. The problem is that like with our physical bodies we cloud it up with foreign matter and make it hard to hear God.

I used to think He didn’t love or like me because He never talked to me. But it wasn’t that He wasn’t talking – it was that I wasn’t listening!

How many of us spend every waking moment doing or going? From the time we wake up until we fall asleep we are bombarding our senses with stimulation. We are born with a direct connection to God, but by the time we are adults we have usually clouded that connection with over stimuli.

Learn to get still. Rest. Relax. Meditate. God wants you to hear from Him. He has A LOT to say. Trust me, its best you do it willingly because if He has to get your attention (and He will), it won’t be pleasant for you!

Things to consider in your faith walk:

- Do you believe in coincidences?
- How has God gotten your attention?
- How can you strengthen your innate awareness?

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“...and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

**1 Peter 3:15**

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# **Lesson 4**

*Faith Readied*

## *Trials / Tribulations*

How can having faith help you during troubled times?

**T**rouble doesn't last always, God never leaves nor forsake you and These trials are just a test of your faith, are just a few of the things we hear when we are going through a storm in our lives. I have been just as guilty as others of throwing these words around too. But it wasn't until I was on the other end of my continuum storm that I realized how trite all that stuff sounds. I was like, "Yea right but my lights are still about to get turned off!"

In addition to God wanting our attention, He has gifts He wants us to have but He knows that often we aren't equipped to handle them so He has to prepare us for them.

One way is by sending what looks like trouble to us. When 'bad' things happen, they are simply opportunities for us to grow. Let's just be honest – how likely are you to learn from the good things? Most of us take good things for granted or are so wrapped up in them that we don't think about anything deeper. But when something bad happens – Oh does that get our attention. We spend time on the 'who/what/when/why' of it all. Which is how we learn to lean on God.

Like Shugg Avery said in the movie, 'The Color Purple,' everything just wants to be seen, heard and loved. God is no different. He wants us to love Him and He wants us to hear Him. And when we don't he gets upset with us. He is a jealous God and can you blame Him. After all – He literally

gave us life and sent his son to live and die for us so how hard is it for us to take some time to notice and *honor* Him.

Things to consider in your faith walk:

- Why do we have storms in our lives?
- What do you do when you are facing adversity?
- Name something you learned from a storm?

Notes:

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“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”

**Matthew 6:21**

# Lesson 5

## *Faith Rewarded*

# *Honor*

Where is the honor in having faith?

**D**uring the time that you are needing to access your faith is usually troubled times. So during troubled times, you need to focus on what you have rather than what you don't have. Gratitude is a powerful emotion.

Every morning I wake up the first thing I say is 'thank you Jesus'. Why? Because I want God to know that even if He does nothing else for me – waking me up is plenty! For every day we wake is another 'opportunity' to get it right!

We should not only obey and love God but we should honor Him too. If you started now and began listing all the things God does for you – you'd be writing forever because with each day there are a whole new list of blessings. Most of which we take for granted! (Waking up, being sane, walking, talking, breathing, seeing, food, clothing, etc.) Have you thought about all the things He 'doesn't' allow to happen to you? And even when things happen – can't you always think of someone who has it worse than you? **THAT IS A BLESSING RIGHT THERE!**

There is honor in having faith because that shows God that not only do you thank Him for what He's done, but you also thank Him for what He 'WILL' do.

Things to consider in our faith walk:

- What is the reward for being faithful?
- Should you only pray for good things to happen in your life?
- Are all rewards financial?

Notes:

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## *Epilogue*

There is one important thing you should know about faith – it *aint* easy. The thing that makes it difficult for most (and especially for me) is that you have to be patient and ‘wait’ for God to do things in His time – not yours.

I could give you example after example of me moving before it was time. Each example ends badly. Waiting is just best.

When trouble comes (and it will) seek God first. Thank Him for what you have. I even thank Him for my trouble because now I know it’s just another opportunity. Then, ask Him to help you with it and for His will to be done. Finally, wait on Him.

I’m convinced that it’s the ‘waiting’ that activates the response from God.

It’s kind of like baking bread from scratch. You can mix up all the ingredients just as you’re supposed to but what happens if you don’t ‘wait’ for the dough to rise?

When you move before God says move it simply won’t be right. And then you will have to start the lesson all over again. So, the thing I’ve learned is that it’s better to just wait it out.

What do you do while you wait you ask?

The best thing to do is to just get started on your praise because when he works it out – you are going to be so grateful!

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Remember, no matter how you may think it should work out, God works it out for the good of you. Let's say you pray for your car payment but don't get it and your car gets repossessed. You may think that's bad until you get your next car and it's 10 times better than the one you had!

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# *Stand*

Tell me what do you do when you've done all you can  
And it seems like you can't make it through?  
Child, you just stand ...

*Donnie McClurkin*

Iris M. Williams

*Stories  
of Faith*



*The Essence of Faith:*

Trust and believe, even when you  
can't see ...

The fog was so thick I could barely see to the end of my hood. The night was thick with darkness and it seemed the nearly two hour drive ahead of me was going to be impossible. On a good morning, I'd seen deer dart out in front of me seconds before my car passed them. I was alone and I was scared. Yet for some reason, I kept driving.

Later it occurred to me that the drive I had that morning was an exercise in faith. I knew the road was there. Just because I couldn't see it didn't mean it didn't exist or that it would stop being there. So I kept driving.

Isn't that what faith is about. Knowing without doubt that God is there and that even though you can't see Him doesn't mean He doesn't exist.

Although I couldn't 'see' the road, I felt it beneath me and without thinking, I simply trusted that it was there.

This is my experience with God. I can't see him, but I can feel him and so I trust He is there too.

It's easy to 'say' you have faith – but do you when times get rough? When the full dam is leaking and the temporary patch is no longer working – what do you do?

One thing I've learned about faith is that it's specific to the individual. There isn't a one way, end all/be all method to the process.

For example, I may fear being alone while you may fear intimacy. Learning to have faith for me would require a different journey than the journey required for you.

*Take the 'Wo' out of Worry!*

Let Go and Let God ...

**F**or most of my adult life, I have ‘taken charge’ and been ‘in control’. When I wanted or needed anything, I simply went out and made it happen. (Notice I said “I” did it.). I didn’t ask anyone for anything. As a matter of fact, I was busy ‘giving’. I purposely set up my life that way because I didn’t want to depend on people because in my experience they always let you down.

Well, one thing about God is you can run but you cannot hide from Him. I ran for nearly forty years – and to be honest with you, I simply got tired of running. Being in control of my life had left me alone, broke and without hope. I was alive but I wasn’t living. Which simply put, I was just waiting to die.

But guess what – I wasn’t designed to break. God knew me before I knew me and He knew that I was a fighter! He knew because He made it so! At my lowest and most vulnerable when there was NO ONE to turn to, I made the choice (Remember we have free will) to choose Him. It wasn’t hard really – I mean I’d made a complete mess of my life. Faced with living or dying, I chose to live.

Somewhere along the way I’d developed the bad habit of taking my problems to man. Oh I didn’t expect them to ‘solve’ my problems. Remember, I never asked anyone for anything. But I did want a sympathetic ear. I did want someone to validate me and my feelings. Actually, want isn’t the right word – NEED is the more accurate word.

When you consistently NEED someone, you develop an addiction. I was addicted to attention. You didn’t have to give me money, buy me things or take me places. I just wanted your time and attention. It’s no wonder that my number one pet peeve is to being ignored. It sets off all kinds of triggers

and brings to the forefront each and every issue of abandonment I've ever had. Yes, I was a mess.

I thank God for sparing me long enough so that I could have the revelation I had in regards to my spirituality. I can say that I am cultivating an intimate relationship with Him. And because of it, He is in turn cradling me in His love, goodness and mercy. And like a newborn baby, I am finally sated.

The hole in my spirit is filling up with Jesus. I no longer 'crave' the attention I once thought I could never get enough of. Do you know what it feels like to feel WHOLE and at PEACE? It's calming, to say the least.

Now that doesn't mean that trials or tests don't come up. Sure they do. The enemy would like nothing more than for me to backslide into that abyss of fear that once held me at a standstill. So from time to time, he sends 'trivial' things my way.

Not long ago, my car was in jeopardy of being repossessed! I tried to 'handle' the situation myself but without results. So, I prayed:

Father, you gave me this car and so if you allow them to come get it I know it's only because you have something better for me in mind. Please give me the strength to stand still while you work things out. Amen

Prayer doesn't have to be formal, long or drawn out. It just has to be sincere. Think about it – when you speak with your closest friend, are you formal or are you relaxed? I'm not going to lie – I used to be afraid of God and so yes my prayers (such as they were), were formal and insincere because I was be obligatory and ritualistic. Now when I pray there is a huge difference! I speak to my Father from my heart. I know He actually prefers it that way.

Anyway, instead of calling someone and telling them about my troubles – I told Jesus. I didn't call up someone I knew would help me and cry and fret. No, I prayed and stood firm on my faith. I knew that whatever happened was orchestrated by God because I'd already done all that I could do. The rest was up to Him.

Well, on the day before they were to accept a final payment (that I didn't have), God sent money while I slept. I didn't have to beg no one. I didn't have to humiliate myself. All I needed to do was go to God in prayer.

Faith can move mountains and it can also takes the Wo (pronounced Woe) out of Worry! When you know that God has gone on ahead of you and solved every problem that you encounter – WHAT IS THERE FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT?

It takes time and practice to build up your faith walk. Sometimes, I forget to lean on Him and I'll get bogged down in trying to fix it or telling my problems to someone else but all of that is just a waste of time. In my case I'm a fixer and a control freak so my faith walk involves stepping back and believing/trusting/waiting on God. Someone else may be the type of person who expects others to do things for them so their faith walk may involve stepping up. Remember God helps those who helps themselves. (After you've done all you can – you just stand.)

The bible says faith without works is dead so that means it's a twofold process. You have to do your part but you also have to stand still and wait for God to do His.

You have to ACTIVELY believe!

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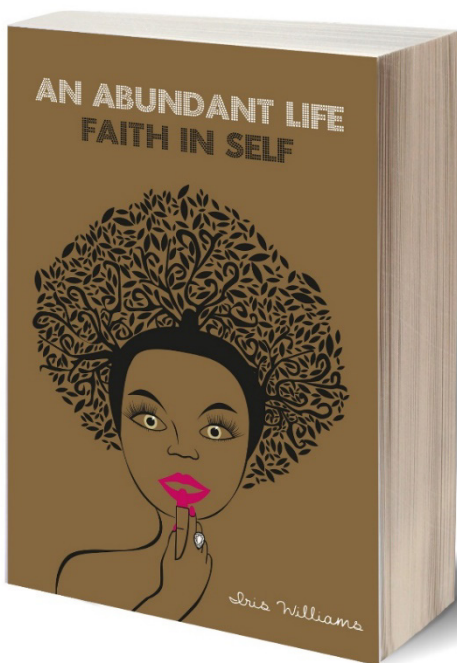
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