

He hears ... Surrender ... Not about you ... Be patient and look at the big picture ... Don't do stuff to show how awesome you are but to show how awesome He is ... Undeserved gift ... Love ... Don't earn but accept ... Don't get overwhelmed by trying to help everyone because it's not up to you alone and God lives outside of time so there is no rush to do everything today ... One step at a time ... Don't compare yourself with others but be happy with who God made you to be ... Don't try to control everything ... If you make a mistake, self-criticism accomplishes nothing ... Don't worship human knowledge because everybody says something different ... The times that you have had faith should be enough to carry you through the times of doubt when you think back on them ... The mind is only the surface of faith. You need a strong foundation that goes deeper ... Just because your heart tells you something doesn't mean it's true. After all, what actual evidence do you have that you don't deserve Hell ... It is in your nature to worship things; you just have to direct it to the right being ... Pray and acknowledge God even when busy ... There are other ways to obtain faith besides sitting and thinking for a long time ... Don't make decisions based on emotions only ... Avoid "quick fixes" if you do not first ask God for help ... Be mindful of why you are practicing discipline because otherwise it will turn into a duty ... You are practicing discipline because you it's illogical to work against the creator of the planet on which you live. This is where you live so why work against something and someone that sustains you ... Since we were made in the image of God, we have the capacity for many things we never thought we were capable of ... Perfection is not something we strive for because we want achievement; it's something we strive for because we know it's within reach and to not reach for it would be to deny God's wonderful gift ... Next time the thought crosses my mind that I don't need God since "I know how to live life," I will begin to meditate on the mystery of life and soon I will realize just how very little I know about that one little detail that I always seem to overlook: Why am I here? ... Do not take one concept in the Bible and apply it to every single situation and take it to an extreme ... Our value does not come from how well-liked we are; it comes from God's love for us ... Pursuing holiness by way of happiness will leave us empty-handed most of the time since happiness is so fleeting ... Our sin nature should not diminish our confidence and joy even when we acknowledge it is a part of us ... We take our free will for granted sometimes since we cannot comprehend the alternative – being a robot, being a drone – this could be worse than Hell itself ... I can't fix my brain by myself. Brains are delicate and complex and behavior modification doesn't cut it ... If we weren't valuable, it wouldn't be worth it for Christ to die ... Give yourself a break, you're only human, but do realize that you wouldn't have the privilege to take a break from saving the world if it hadn't been for His saving the world for us – something we could not do on our own ... Instead of getting discouraged about not being able to do enough, we should be thankful for the amount we can do ... Look at how far you've come already ... What if the same virtue that keeps you from the untrue also keeps you from the true? ... It may seem like I am ignoring some things for the sake of dedication, but how will I be able to dedicate myself to anything if I do not reject those things in opposition? ... Although trust obviously has its risks, it is a risk we must take sometimes, because wavering trust will leave us unable to make any important decisions with confidence ... What amount of evidence is enough to make you want to put your trust in something? ... What also must be weighed when deciding what to trust, is the exigency of the claim, as in, if it were true, how much would it matter? ... Some things we need to fight for, but not all our plans are worth pursuing with a fiery, stubborn passion ... If we are willing to pray for others, then God will grant us the power to change their lives through prayer ... While God's mind doesn't change; our prayer shows Him that we have changed our mind ... I have to love Him for all His attributes and not just focus on the ones of most benefit to me ... We were made to worship God so it makes sense that He would fill us with unselfish reasons to worship since worship is so important to Him ... Because of who He is, we should have no desire to not love him in the first place so the fact that not loving him lands us in Hell, has no bearing on us ... Once I realized there was only so much I could do in my own strength to obtain faith, I decided to believe God would take me exactly as I was, inquisitive mind and all, as long as I put as much trust as I could in Him ... Making sacrifice takes practice. Even if I fail sometimes, and have a bad attitude, every attempt is worth the effort in the end ... Yes, God is just. No, we are not helpless victims – there is one thing we haven't tried and that is surrender ...

