

Magic remedy: Faith

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Shrouded by woe, pouring tears of sorrow down my cheek, holding my most recent scoliosis x-ray that shows that my spine curve only got worse. The incurable condition they said that I've been struggling with for several years. Mom's voice broke through the dust of my grief reassuring me: "Faith, my dear, makes things possible." A few words little me didn't grasp fully. I grew up in a Muslim religious family. Mom was the ultimate example of a great faithful believer. I always found it astonishing how she was extremely hopeful, positive, and had complete trust in God that ease will eventually come no matter how desperate the circumstances were. She is from whom I inspired the meaning of faith.

Faith derived from Latin "fides" and old French "feid" is strong belief and full confidence in God, it is not a cliché of false hope; it is the raw truth. Faith may also be a state one is in or comes to be in; it may also essentially involve something one does. An adequate account of faith, perhaps, needs to encompass both.

In Islam Ibn Taymiyyah writes: "It is understood that faith is affirmation and not merely belief. Affirmation includes the words of the heart, which is belief, and the actions of the heart, which is compliance." Hence, faith in Islam means to believe in Allah, to affirm His truth, and to submit to His commands. The six pillars of faith are to believe and affirm the following: Allah (God), His angels, His messengers, His books, The Day of Judgment, Providence

In the Christian context, faith is understood both as a gift of God and also as requiring a human response of assent and trust, so that their faith is something with respect to which people are both

receptive and active. “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see” ([Hebrews 11:1](#) NIV).

John Calvin principal figure in the development of the system of Christian theology defines faith as ‘a firm and certain knowledge of God’s benevolence towards us, founded upon the truth of the freely given promise in Christ, both revealed to our minds and sealed upon our hearts through the Holy Spirit’ (John Calvin, *Institutes* III, ii, 7, 551)

From a different point of view, faith doesn't hold religious meaning only. People can have faith in each other, as well as in themselves since faith or belief is one of the most important keys to converting our thoughts into reality. Faith works on a subconscious level and helps move you toward your goal.

As I grew up, I came to understand the deep meaning of faith through multiple real-life experiences. Five months ago, I was in a whole different place of the world, a different country, a different continent, aspiring to live the "American dream" and pursue my studies in the USA. I already had my college acceptance and I-20, but the critical part was to obtain my F1-Visa. On the day of the interview, I didn't allow feelings of nervousness, doubt, and uncertainty to get the best of me, I was armed with faith: My faith in God that my prayers shall not return void, and My family's faith in ME that I will do well. Consequently, I got rewarded, my visa has been issued in 4 minutes, and God only knows how jubilant and thankful I was. Little did I know that here I am three months later living the life of my dreams at nineteen years old. I am a young ambitious college student in America, who loves Pretzels and enjoys times square night walks.

However, there are sometimes when difficulties and hardships crept in like thieves in the night causing our faith to get weaker. The nature of human beings implies the constant change of our

feelings affecting our beliefs. At this stage, the concept of steadfastness of faith interferes with overcoming life challenges.

2020 wasn't my best year, my mom got diagnosed with cancer, and before processing the shocking news, my only grandma passed away after a long battle with cancer 10 days before my seventeenth birthday. A delightful smile was gone, a shiny candle was extinguished by the inevitable wind of death, my grandma was no more a part of this world. That dreadful news shattered my soul, it felt as if my world was crumbling down, especially since the pandemic deprived me of her precious presence, hugs, and kisses. She fought bravely for several years, she always kept on a smile full of faith and hope that shone through her facial wrinkles despite the immense pain she endured. Back then I was so selfish to think of it as God brought her suffering to an end, Allah says: "It may be that you dislike a thing while it is good for you" (Quraan: Al-Baqarah, **2:216**)

Life was getting hard, and I believe it never meant to be easy. The older we get, the harder life gets, and the harder it hits us. This year is my struggle year, I dealt with sickness, loss of loved ones, financial problems and so many other things and it was never easy.

My mother's words were my only comfort, even though I didn't understand them fully, but my faith kept me from hitting the rock bottom, I was able to hang on to a bigger power, handling my future and drawing my path, and today I'm very proud of who I am, this faith has taught me to never escape a hardship, and hang on what life gives me as an escape boat, today I'm living the dreams of yesterday, and the problems I had sharpened my personality into the strong little woman I am today. My grandmother's death taught me to give my best to make her the proudest as much as it taught me to care for my family to never regret an unsaid love word, my sickness taught me that I am what I am defining myself to be, and no sickness can be an obstacle to the

dreams I am fond of achieving and my mother's cancer taught me that a dear human's struggle is my struggle and there are far more battles than mine and I am their shield to fight.

Now, I am a person who still got a long way to go to understand the real meaning of faith, but I am utterly certain that God is by the side of those who believe in him, those who are fully aware that with hardship comes ease.

Having faith never makes things easy, it makes them beatable.

Work cited

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The bible (Hebrews 11:1 NIV)