



# UNRAVELING CHRISTIAN MYTHS

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## Myth No. 2

### **"Mature Christians never struggle with doubt or temptation."**

Many believers quietly assume that spiritual maturity eliminates deep emotional or spiritual struggles. This myth suggests that if someone has walked with Christ for many years, they should no longer experience seasons of discouragement, doubt, frustration, or temptation. When mature Christians struggle, they often feel ashamed—as if something must be spiritually wrong with them.

#### **Case Study: “The Long Year” — Ed’s Struggle with God’s Timing**

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Ed had been a Christian for over thirty years. He taught Bible classes, mentored younger believers, and was known for steady faith. At age 58, he unexpectedly lost his job due to downsizing.

At first, he responded with confidence: prayer, Scripture, and optimism. But as weeks turned into months with no job offers, discouragement set in. By month six, Ed began doubting not God’s existence, but His attentiveness.

He wrestled with questions such as: “Why would God allow this to continue?” and “If He cares, why not resolve it quickly?” His prayers became mechanical. Bible reading felt dry. He was tempted to give up on the Christian life entirely.

Around month eight, a friend gently challenged him: “What if God is not only working on your employment situation, but on your heart?” That question shifted Ed’s perspective.

He began praying differently—not only for resolution but for transformation. Nearly one year after losing his job, he received a new position—less prestigious but healthier. Looking back, he realized God had been shaping patience, humility, and deeper dependence. He learned to trust not only God’s wisdom, but His timing.

## **Discussion Questions**

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1. What false assumption did Ed initially believe about maturity?
2. Why does God sometimes not resolve our problems quickly?
3. What changed in Ed before his circumstances changed?
4. How can prolonged struggle deepen spiritual maturity?
5. Why is it dangerous to believe that mature Christians should never struggle?

## **What the Bible Says**

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- Even strong believers experience deep struggle (Psalm 13; 2 Corinthians 1:8–9).
- Waiting is part of spiritual formation (Isaiah 40:31; James 1:2–4).
- God’s timing often differs from ours (Ecclesiastes 3:11; 2 Peter 3:8–9).
- Emotional struggle does not cancel genuine faith (Mark 9:24).
- Growth often develops through prolonged difficulty (Romans 5:3–5).

## **Key Lessons and Applications**

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1. Trust God’s \_\_\_\_\_ even when you cannot understand His timing.
2. Remember that spiritual growth often develops through \_\_\_\_\_ seasons.
3. Emotional struggle does not mean God’s \_\_\_\_\_ has withdrawn.
4. Waiting is not wasted; it is part of God’s \_\_\_\_\_ process.
5. Maturity is not the absence of struggle but the willingness to \_\_\_\_\_ through it.

## **The Bottom Line**

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Mature Christians do struggle. The difference is not that they avoid hardship, but that over time they learn to trust God not only for outcomes—but for timing. Spiritual and emotional struggles are not signs of failure; they are often instruments of growth in the hands of a wise and faithful God.

## **Reflection**

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Describe a season in your life when God’s timing felt slow. What might He have been shaping in you during that period?