

Introduction

Life has a way of humbling us. One moment, everything feels aligned. The next, we find ourselves in a season we never expected, fighting battles we never asked for, and wondering if God still sees us.

I know that feeling because I have lived it. For years, I walked through seasons that did not make sense. Seasons where prayers seemed to hit the ceiling, where doors stayed shut no matter how hard I knocked, and where the weight of uncertainty pressed down on me daily. There were moments I questioned everything. Moments I felt forgotten. Moments I wondered if God had changed His mind about me.

But here is what I learned: struggles are not wasted. They are not proof that God has abandoned us. In fact, they are often the very place where He does His deepest work. And the way we respond in those hard seasons determines what we carry out of them.

This mini book is not theory. It is born from my own journey, from Scripture, and from the lessons God taught me when I had nowhere else to turn. I am sharing the steps I took, the truths I clung to, and the breakthrough I eventually experienced. My prayer is that as you read, you will find clarity for your own struggles and learn to trust God even when the path ahead is unclear.

If you are in a hard season right now, I want you to know this: you are not alone, and this season will not be wasted.

Chapter One: Understanding Struggles and God's Purpose

To deal with struggles well, we must first understand where they come from and why they exist. Struggles did not start with us, and they did not begin when we were born or when we made our first mistake. Struggles entered the world long before any of us took our first breath.

It all goes back to the beginning, back to a garden where everything was perfect. Adam and Eve had it all. They lived in abundance, walked with God in the cool of the day, and lacked nothing. Every tree was theirs, every provision was within reach. They had full access to God, full access to life, and full access to purpose.

But something went wrong, and it was not because they lacked anything. It was because they failed to see God as their provider. They had everything, yet they reached for the one thing that was not theirs to take. The "everything" mentality became their weakness. They stopped seeing boundaries as protection and started seeing them as limitation, and the devil took full advantage of that shift.

The tree in the middle of the garden was never just a restriction. It was a test of understanding, an invitation to trust God's wisdom over their own curiosity. It was a boundary meant to teach them discernment, responsibility, and dependence. But they misunderstood it. They saw it as something God was withholding, not something God was using to shape them.

When they ate from that tree, everything changed. Sin entered and separation followed, and for the first time, humanity experienced lack, pain, confusion, and struggle. God drove them out of Eden, and many have interpreted that as punishment. But it was more than that. It was instruction and redirection. God was not just judging them but repositioning them for a journey back to Him.

Struggles were permitted, not to destroy us, but to draw us back. They exist to teach us what ease could not. They force us to seek God when comfort made us forget Him. They build discernment, deepen dependence, and give us true knowledge of who God is. Without struggles, we would never learn to trust. Without pressure, we would never discover our strength. Without resistance, we would never grow.

This is why your struggle is not random. It is not a sign that you missed God or that He has forgotten you. It is part of the journey He is using to bring you closer to Him, to refine your character, and to prepare you for what He has called you to carry.

Chapter Two: How to Deal with Struggles

Understanding where struggles come from is one thing. Knowing how to respond to them is another. Over the years, I have learned that struggles do not just require endurance. They require strategy, intentionality, and a heart that is willing to lean into God rather than pull away from Him.

In this chapter, I want to share with you the steps I personally applied when I found myself in seasons I could not navigate on my own. These are not theories I picked up from a book or principles I heard in passing. These are the very practices that carried me through some of the hardest moments of my life. They are rooted in Scripture, tested by experience, and proven faithful.

There are three key steps I discovered, and each one builds on the other. You cannot skip one and expect the others to work. They flow together, and when applied with sincerity and persistence, they will change the way you walk through every struggle you face.

Let me walk you through them.

Step One: You Need to Know God

Many people confuse knowing God with knowing God's will, but they are not the same thing. God's will is about direction, guidance, and clarity on what to do next. But knowing God goes deeper than that. It is about relationship, intimacy, and trust: learning who He is, not just what He wants from you.

When you truly know God, you understand His character. You discover His love, His mercy, His faithfulness, and His truth. You spend time in His presence, not just when you need something, but because you want to be near Him. You learn to recognize His voice, to trust His timing, and to rest in His promises even when nothing around you makes sense.

This is where many believers get stuck. They want answers without intimacy and breakthrough without relationship. They pray when there is a crisis and disappear when things calm down, and because of that, they remain in cycles they were never meant to stay in.

Scripture shows us repeatedly that God responds where relationship exists. He does not just give His power to anyone but to those who know Him, who walk with Him, and who have built a history with Him. Intimacy is the foundation, and without it, every other step will feel forced and ineffective.

If you want to deal with your struggles well, start with your relationship with God. Move beyond surface-level prayers and Sunday morning encounters. Press in, stay consistent, and let Him shape you through the Word, through prayer, through obedience, and through daily dependence.

Knowing God is not a one-time decision but a daily choice, and it is the most important step you will ever take. The Bible is full of men and women who endured long, painful struggles, yet they came out victorious. What sustained them was not their strength, their wisdom, or their resources. It was their relationship with God.

Take Abraham, for example. He waited for a child year after year. The promise seemed impossible, yet he kept believing because he knew the One who made the promise. His relationship with God anchored him when circumstances screamed doubt.

Hannah's story was similar. She prayed year after year for a son, enduring mockery, rejection, and deep sorrow. Yet she kept pouring her heart out to God because she knew He heard her. Her relationship with Him kept her faith alive even when nothing changed.

Then there is Job, who lost everything: his wealth, his children, his health, and even the support of those closest to him. He sat in ashes, scraping his sores and questioning why this had happened. But even in his pain, Job never let go of God. He wrestled and questioned, but he stayed connected, and God showed up, not because Job had all the answers, but because relationship existed.

This is the pattern throughout Scripture. God responds where relationship exists. He does not abandon those who seek Him, even when the wait is long and the pain is deep. Abraham, Hannah, and Job all discovered that intimacy with God is what sustains us when nothing else can. If you want God to show up in your struggle, you must first show up in His presence, not just when you need something, but because you need Him.

I learned this truth the hard way. After completing my postgraduate studies, I expected doors to open, opportunities to align, and the struggle to finally be over. But instead, I entered one of the most difficult seasons of my life.

There was lack everywhere: financial, emotional, and spiritual. I faced rejection from people I thought would support me and endured mockery from those who questioned my choices. I wrestled with doubt, wondering if I had heard God correctly or if I had made a terrible mistake.

It was during this season that I stepped into full-time ministry. I thought answering the call would bring clarity and open doors, but ministry in those early years was not glamorous. It was lonely, uncertain, and often discouraging. I watched others move forward while I seemed stuck. I prayed and fasted, yet the breakthrough I longed for felt distant. There were nights I cried out to God, asking Him why the wait was so long and why the struggle was so hard.

But in the middle of that season, God led me to Mark 10:29 to 30. Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields, along with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life."

That scripture became my anchor. It did not remove the struggle, but it reshaped how I saw it. I realized that what I was going through was not punishment but preparation. God was not absent but building something in me that ease could never produce. He was teaching me to trust Him, not just for provision, but as my provision.

I made a choice then to stop complaining and started cultivating relationship, to stop focusing on what I did not have and started thanking God for who He was, to stop waiting for my situation to change before I praised Him and started praising Him until my perspective changed. And slowly, everything began to shift. Not because my circumstances improved

overnight, but because my relationship with God deepened. I learned that knowing God is not about having all the answers but about trusting the One who does. That trust, that intimacy, that daily decision to stay connected, is what carried me through and eventually brought me into the lifting I had been praying for.

Step Two: You Need to Know God's Will

Knowing God is the foundation, but knowing God's will is what brings direction. You can have a strong relationship with God and still find yourself stuck because you are not moving in alignment with His plan. Knowing God's will helps you make decisions with clarity, avoid unnecessary battles, and walk confidently even when the path is unclear.

God's will is not a mystery He hides from those who seek Him. It is a revelation He gives to those who are willing to wait, listen, and obey. But many believers struggle because they make decisions based on what feels right, what looks good, or what everyone else is doing, without ever asking God what He wants them to do.

Scripture is clear: seeking God's will changes outcomes. It shortens struggles, opens doors, and brings divine favor. When you align your steps with God's plan, you stop wasting time on battles you were never meant to fight and start walking in the breakthrough He has already prepared for you.

The Bible gives us countless examples of people whose lives were transformed because they sought God's will before they moved. Let me share a few with you. Take the story of Isaac and Rebekah, for example. Rebekah was pregnant with twins, and the struggle in her womb was so intense that she wondered what was happening. Isaac inquired of the Lord on her behalf, and God gave them insight into what was going on and what the future held. That revelation shaped their understanding and prepared them for the journey ahead.

Then there is Joshua. Before going into battle, he did not rely on his military strategy or his past victories. He sought God's direction. He asked for divine guidance, and God gave him specific instructions that led to victory. Joshua understood that without God's will, even the best plans could fail.

Jehoshaphat faced a similar moment. When enemies came against him, he refused to move without hearing from God. He gathered the people, they prayed and fasted, and God spoke. The battle was won, not because of their strength, but because they followed God's instructions.

These stories reveal a powerful truth: seeking God's will is not optional if you want breakthrough. Many struggles continue not because God is silent, but because people never stop to ask Him what to do. They move based on assumption, pressure, or impatience, and they end up prolonging the very battles they are trying to escape.

When you seek God's will, you position yourself for divine intervention. You stop fighting in your own strength and start moving with His strategy. And that makes all the difference. I learned the power of seeking God's will in one of the most personal areas of my life: marriage. For eight years, I waited. Eight years of watching friends get married, eight years of pressure from family and well-meaning people, eight years of wondering if I had missed something or if God had forgotten me.

But I did not spend those eight years searching desperately or settling for whoever was available. Each time I sought the face of the Lord, He would say the same thing: be patient, your wife is in the ministry, and it is not time yet. That word alone shaped my life and kept me from making a costly mistake that could have destroyed my life and ministry. I waited without being desperate, trusting that God's timing would be perfect.

There were moments I was tempted to settle. Moments when good options presented themselves, and it would have been easy to say yes just to end the wait. But something in me knew that moving ahead of God's will would cost me more than the wait ever could. I had seen too many people rush into decisions that looked right on the surface but brought years of struggle because they never asked God if it was His plan.

Then one day, while I was waiting on the Lord, a sister came and joined the ministry as a member. She was a Muslim convert who gave her life to Christ on the very first day she visited. Her twin sister came with her that day, and during the service, God exposed that the twin was a witch possessed with powers from the marine kingdom. After her deliverance, the sister who had just been saved called her twin and asked questions about her involvement in that kingdom. When her twin confirmed it, she made a vow that the same God who revealed and exposed her sister with such power would be the God she would follow to bring her to her place in destiny.

That was how she became a Christian while still a student in secondary school, living under her parents' roof. I was shocked that she could take such a bold decision, and to my greatest surprise, her family fought her for it. She was persecuted, frustrated, hated, and eventually rejected by her own family because of her faith. But the church stood by her. Her parents fought me as well, but I thank God that in the country where I live, a child above eighteen has the right to choose her religion. Her family decided to abandon her, but the church took her in and sponsored her education from secondary school all the way through the university.

After she graduated, the Lord appeared to me and asked, "Do you know why this lady stood by her Christianity and never disappointed you in ministry despite all I allowed her to go through?" I asked why, and He said, "It is because she is your wife in ministry. This is the lady I had chosen for you from the beginning. But I never wanted to reveal her to you early so that you could help her fight her battles and also so that you could mature in ministry and in preparation for marriage."

I bless God today that we are happily married. Despite parental rejection and refusal due to religious differences, God showed up Himself and saw us through. Ever since then, my wife has been supportive both in my life and ministry. When you seek the will of the Lord and obey it, He fights battles for you that you did not even know existed.

If you are waiting for direction in any area of your life, do not rush. Seek God's will, trust His timing, and move only when you have peace. The wait may be long, but obedience always leads to breakthrough.

Step Three: Prayer, the Strength for Every Struggle

If knowing God sustains you and knowing God's will directs you, then prayer is what empowers you. Prayer is not just a ritual or a religious obligation. It is the lifeline that connects you to the source of all strength, wisdom, and breakthrough.

Think of prayer as a well, deep and full of everything you need. The well is always there, always available, but many people only come to it when they are desperate. They take a quick sip in moments of crisis and then walk away, wondering why they remain weak and unfulfilled. But those who understand the power of prayer do not just visit the well occasionally. They drink deep from it daily, drawing strength, clarity, and sustaining grace for every season they face.

To drink deep from the well of prayer is to move beyond routine words and repeated phrases. It is to move from saying prayers to becoming prayer. There is a difference. Saying prayers is an action you perform at certain times of the day. Becoming prayer is a posture you carry everywhere you go.

When you become prayer, your life becomes an altar. You do not just pray when there is a crisis. You live in constant communication with God. You invite Him into your decisions, your struggles, your joys, and your uncertainties. You learn to recognize His voice in the quiet moments and trust His leading even when the path is unclear.

This kind of prayer is not about long speeches or impressive words. It is about intimacy, consistency, and surrender. It is about showing up daily, even when you do not feel like it, even when nothing seems to change, and even when the struggle feels heavier than your faith.

Prayer is what transforms struggles into testimonies. It is what opens doors that effort cannot. It is what brings breakthrough when every natural solution has failed. And those who commit to becoming prayer, not just saying it, will see God move in ways they never imagined.

I wish I could say I learned this early, but the truth is, I did not. There were years I wasted trying to make things happen in my own strength. Years where I prayed occasionally but did not really commit to a life of prayer. Years where I was more focused on the struggle than I was on the God who could carry me through it.

Looking back, I see clearly now that many of my delays were not because God was slow but because I was. I started late. I made choices that set me back. I allowed distractions to pull me away from what mattered most. And while I cannot go back and change those years, I have learned something valuable: even when you start late, God's timing remains perfect.

If you are reading this and feeling like you have wasted time, like you missed opportunities, or like you are too far behind to catch up, I want you to hear this. It is not over. God is not limited by your past mistakes, your delayed start, or the years you feel you lost. He can still bring you into the fullness of what He has called you to carry.

But here is what I learned: from this point forward, you cannot afford to waste any more time. You must commit. You must press in. You must become intentional about prayer and stop treating it as something you do when it is convenient. The breakthrough you are praying for is connected to the consistency you bring to the altar.

When I entered full-time ministry, I thought the hardest part was behind me. I thought answering the call meant the struggle would ease up. But instead, I walked into a wilderness season that tested everything I believed about God, myself, and the work He had called me to do.

There were moments when nothing made sense. Doors I thought would open stayed shut. Opportunities I expected never came. I watched others flourish while I felt stuck in a season that seemed endless. The weight of it was crushing at times, and I questioned whether I had missed God or whether He had changed His mind about me.

But in that wilderness, I made a decision. I committed to 2,555 days of consistent midnight prayers, approximately seven years of showing up at the altar when the world was asleep. It was not about the number but about the commitment. It was about refusing to give up, refusing to let the silence or the wait steal my voice before God.

Night after night, I showed up. Some nights I felt the weight lift. Other nights, nothing changed. But I kept going because I had made a choice to become prayer, to live at the altar, to seek God's face even when I could not see His hand moving.

Prayer transformed me. It deepened my trust, sharpened my discernment, and gave me strength when I had none left. It opened doors that no amount of effort or strategy could have unlocked. The breakthrough I experienced was not because I worked harder but because I prayed consistently.

The wilderness did not last forever. God brought me out, and when He did, I came out with a testimony that could only be explained by His grace. The struggles I faced became the foundation for the ministry I now walk in. The delays became preparation. The pain became purpose. And it all happened because I refused to give up on prayer.

When you become prayer, every struggle becomes a setup for testimony. The battles you face today are shaping the breakthrough you will carry tomorrow. Do not quit. Do not grow weary. Keep pressing in, keep seeking God, and trust that He is working even when you cannot see it yet.

Step Four: Be Patient and Persistent in the Fire of Struggles

Knowing God, knowing God's will, and becoming a person of prayer are essential, but there is one more quality that determines whether you will overcome your struggles or remain trapped in them: patience combined with persistence.

Many people misunderstand patience. They think it means sitting back and doing nothing while waiting for God to move. But biblical patience is not passivity. It is active endurance, the ability to keep moving forward, keep pressing in, and keep believing even when nothing around you has changed. Patience keeps you anchored when the wait is long, and persistence keeps you engaged when the struggle feels endless.

Together, patience and persistence become a weapon against every scheme of the enemy. Satan knows that if he can make you quit, he wins. If he can tire you out, frustrate you, or push you to give up, he can keep you locked in cycles you were meant to break out of. But when you combine patience with persistence, you become unstoppable. You stay in the fight, stay faithful to the process, and let the length of the struggle sharpen you rather than break you.

Scripture is full of examples that prove this principle. Take Jacob, for instance. He worked fourteen years for the woman he loved. Fourteen years of labor, patience, and persistence just

to marry Rachel. Most people would have given up after the first betrayal when Laban tricked him into marrying Leah, but Jacob stayed the course. He remained patient and persistent, and eventually received what God had promised him.

The disciples faced a similar test. After Jesus ascended, they encountered rejection, persecution, mockery, and even death threats. They could have walked away and returned to their old lives, but instead, they remained faithful to their calling and continued preaching the gospel. Because of their endurance, the message of Christ spread across the world.

Even Zacchaeus showed us what persistence looks like. He was short, the crowd was thick, and no one was making room for him to see Jesus. But he did not let obstacles stop him. He climbed a tree, positioned himself, and pressed through every barrier until he encountered the Savior. And because of his determination, Jesus called him by name and changed his life forever.

What these stories reveal is sobering: many believers today lack patience and persistence. They start strong, but when the struggle drags on longer than expected, they quit. They grow weary, lose hope, and convince themselves that maybe God has forgotten them or that the breakthrough is not coming. Satan uses this weakness to keep them trapped in the very battles they were meant to overcome.

But it does not have to be that way. You can choose a different path, and that path will require you to stay patient and stay persistent no matter how long the fire lasts.

I saw this play out in my own life during my time in school. I valued my education deeply, but there were semesters when I could not pay my school fees. I remember standing outside lecturers' offices, pleading with them to allow me to write my exams even though I had not paid. It was humbling, frustrating, and often embarrassing, but I did not give up.

I kept showing up, kept asking, and kept believing that somehow, God would make a way. To the glory of God, I was able to write my exams with my classmates, and after that, I went back and paid my fees when the provision came. My persistence kept me in the race, and my patience kept me trusting God through the process.

If you are in a struggle right now that feels unbearable, do not quit. Be patient with God's timing and be persistent in your pursuit of breakthrough. The fire you are in is not meant to destroy you but to refine you. And if you stay faithful, you will come out stronger, wiser, and carrying a testimony that will inspire others.

Conclusion

If you have made it this far, I want to thank you for taking this journey with me. I know that reading about struggles when you are in the middle of one is not easy. But I hope that as you have walked through these pages, something has shifted in you and you are beginning to see your hard season not as abandonment but as assignment, not as punishment but as preparation.

Struggles are not random, and they are not proof that you missed God. They are the very place where He is shaping you, refining you, and preparing you for what He has called you to carry. The way you respond to them will determine what you carry out of them.

You have learned four steps in this book: knowing God, knowing God's will, becoming prayer, and remaining patient and persistent in the fire. These are not quick fixes or formulas that promise instant results. They are foundations that will carry you through every season you face. They require commitment, consistency, and a willingness to trust God even when the path is unclear.

I will not lie to you and say the journey will be easy. There will be days when the wait feels unbearable, when the silence is deafening, and when giving up seems easier than pressing on. But I want you to know this: God is with you, He sees you, and He is working even when you cannot see it.

Perhaps you feel like you started late, like you have wasted time, or like you are too far behind to catch up. If that is where you are, hear me clearly. God's timing is perfect, and He can still bring you into the fullness of what He has promised. But from this point forward, you must commit. You must press in. You must become intentional about your relationship with Him, about seeking His will, about living a life of prayer, and about staying patient and persistent no matter how long the fire lasts.

Your struggle is not the end of your story. It is the beginning of your testimony. Trust the process, trust God's timing, and trust that He is faithful to complete what He has started in you.