

The Crucible of Doubt: Reflections On the Quest for Faith

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Faith is the first principle of the gospel of Jesus Christ. So what happens when a person has doubts? Questioning is not the problem, according to authors Terryl and Fiona Givens. After all, they write, the Restoration unfolded because a young man asked questions. The difficulty arises when questions are based on flawed assumptions or incorrect perceptions, which can point us in the wrong direction, misdirect our attention, or constrain the answers we are capable of hearing. This insightful book offers a careful, intelligent look at doubt at some of its common sources, the challenges it presents, and the opportunities it may open up in a person's quest for faith. Whether you struggle with your own doubts or mostly want to understand loved ones who question, you will appreciate this candid discussion. You'll come away feeling more certain than ever of the Lord's love for all of His children.

Terryl Givens holds the James A. Bostwick chair of English and is Professor of Literature and Religion at the University of Richmond and the author of several books. His writing has been praised by the *New York Times* as provocative reading and includes, most recently, *When Souls Had Wings*, a history of the idea of premortal life in Western thought; a biography (with Matthew Grow) of Parley Pratt: The Apostle Paul of Mormonism (winner of the 2012 Best Book Award from the Mormon History Association); and *Wrestling the Angel: The Foundations of Mormon Thought*. Fiona Givens is a retired modern language teacher with undergraduate degrees in French and German and a graduate degree in European History. She is now an independent scholar who has published in several journals and reviews in Mormon studies, including *Journal of Mormon History*, *Exponent II*, and *LDS Living*. Along with Terryl, she is the author of *The God Who Weeps: How Mormonism Makes Sense of Life*. Terryl and Fiona are the grandparents of five fonts of delight; and the parents of six sources of intellectual challenge and inspiration.

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