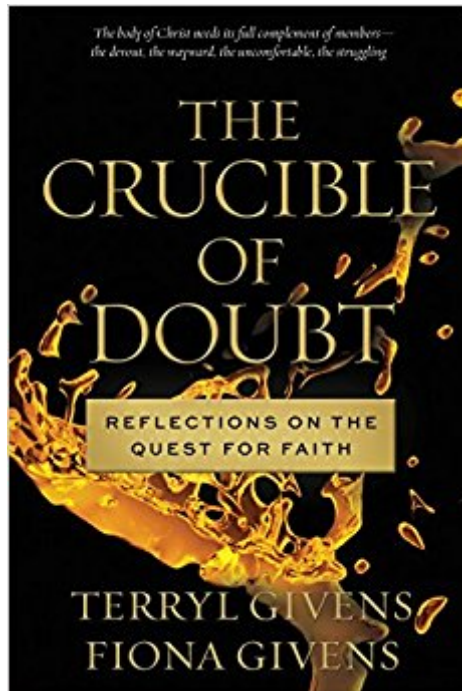




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# The Crucible Of Doubt: Reflections On The Quest For Faith



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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.

This is a MUST read for ANY Mormon. (I realize that is a sweeping statement.) Those with doubts, those without. Those who've abandoned the Church, those who are committed to their conversion. For me it provided me the clarity in discerning truth and tradition, and the relationship between God and His Church. Great content, PLUS so beautifully written. On the same level for me as other books in the Missionary Library, its importance just under the standard works. Has strengthened my relationship with God powerfully and given me greater insight. I've bought several to have on hand to gift them whenever I think someone might benefit from it.

An almost poetic approach to perspectives, many not yet articulated, by the Latter Day Saints. I found this book to be fascinating and once in a while, enlightening. At some points, it was beyond me but, pushing through, I could catch the jest of the ideas. The authors pull many quotes from many well-known authors and teach the doctrines of Christ in their own way. I'd say it was worth the read for someone who appreciates sophistication in their learning of the truth and can grasp the meaning and ideas in poetry.

With "The God Who Weeps," and now with "The Crucible of Doubt," Terryl and Fiona Givens have raised a lot of window shades, bringing more light into the house of religious thought and allowing those on either side of the glass to see each other from new vantage points. I found the analogies with which they begin several of the chapters of this book (Mossman's lock, canon as weapon, Pharaoh's ring) particularly helpful for understanding the concepts they discuss (how our assumptions often lead us not only to the wrong conclusions, but to start down the wrong road in the first place; the misuse of scripture; a more appropriate understanding of priesthood authority). As a lover of literature, I appreciated the poetry and literary quotations the authors used to illustrate and enhance their own ideas.

Fantastic book that helps to feel better about asking questions about the church and policies, etc. Puts everything in a perspective about the gospel and what is of God vs what is of men and how to reconcile the two.

I have been waiting for this message for a long time. It's almost as if all the feelings, intuitions, and opinions about Mormonism and my path to worship that I have instinctively felt over the years have been laid with eloquence and beauty upon the pages of this book. It is this type of loving message that encapsulates the gospel of Jesus Christ. The message is for me, the sort of rational and compassionate philosophical reasoning that I wish to align my life with. Thank you for this gift, Givens.

Without a doubt the most significant book for the LDS populace in decades. For anyone searching or questioning because of a faith crisis, this is the single most important book one ought to have. Literate, intelligent and understanding from the preface to the last chapter. Should be required reading and a course of study by the institutional church.

If I could give a 10 star rating, I would! Thoughtfully written. Well documented. They create meaning to doubts that we all have from time to time about faith, the church, and LDS history. It leaves me eager to live my life in the fellowship of saints.

A rare book. Super useful, if not deeply intellectual and emotionally awakening with its reinterpretation of Mormon doctrine- overturning much of the cultural interpretations of Mormon thought that today trip so many members up and have failed them in adequately dealing with concerns for their own futures and that of their children in the church. In this book one finds a more inclusive theology for all that is good in the world, hope for the doubt that is a natural and undeniable part of life, and a refreshing approach to fundamental doctrines that effect Mormon thought. A fascinating read in every chapter. Thank you Terryl and Fiona.

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