Praise the Lord for the Promise our Father in Heaven gave us that we are His heirs. Praise the Lord it was not because of our adherence to the Law BUT solely because of our faith in Jesus our Righteousness. Doesn't this promise take a load off our shoulders? You/I don't have to perform or accomplish anything to be HIS heirs.  Giving up or making sacrifices of that which we are fond of will not give us the right to be called the heirs of our Almighty Father in Heaven.   All it requires of you/I is our faith in Jesus Christ our Redeemer and Savior.  You/I can never attain righteousness on our own by fulfilling a certain number of penances or sacrifices. It is truly amazing that we have this privilege not because of our family name or because we did something remarkable.  I am happy that I did not have to do a thing because HE did it all for us.  Who? Christ our Righteousness and Redeemer saved us from our own vileness and smallness.   The victory is ours in Him and through Him.

You tell me it is easier said than done. Yes, I know that faith is hard. Faith requires a reversal of the sinful wirings in our bodies, minds, and souls. Faith is painful when we choose trust over fear. But what we must focus on is that faith is a choice. Every thought, every action, every word we speak-- we must choose to show faith in it all. We must accept our human flaws and believe that only God is able to cover those flaws with His perfection. Acting in faith does not happen overnight, and Jesus knows that! Praise God for that truth: Jesus knows that faith is a process—a long, hard, painful process. Since Jesus knew how hard and painful faith is, He died for our sins so that His perfect love could graciously cover all our flaws. But the choice to believe, to trust, to have faith still remains with us and that is a choice we must make every second. Brothers and sisters, there is grace every time we fail and every time our faith wavers. Yet I urge you to still pick faith even when you fail. I urge you to not give up on yourselves when picking the hard choice of faith, because Jesus has not given up on you. Jesus still hopes that you will pick Him. How do I know that our Father hopes for that? Because Jesus is always offering His sacrificial gift to cover all our sins, free of cost.

Lord, help us this Lent to see you in everyone you bring into our lives so we can be more of You in us and less of ourselves. Purge the darkness of our self-centeredness and pettiness and replace it with YOUR perfect love!