

Beauty in the Midst of Struggle

New Encaustic Art

by *Gretchen M. Smith*



Meekness, 16x16,
encaustic on canvas



Long-Suffering, 16x16,
encaustic on canvas



May 7 ~ July 7, 2010

For this series of paintings I wanted to explore "Beauty in the Midst of Struggle." Like many of you, my personal, and even professional life, have

been riddled with struggles over the past few years. In response to these challenges, I chose to dig deeper into my faith and my art. As a follower of Jesus, I have learned that when I am weak, he is strong. In the past two years I have endeavored to keep my focus on Christ in the midst of all of the difficulty, even though there were times when the desire to remain on the right path was simply not there and I had to choose to walk in blind obedience. Slowly, with God's help, I started to get stronger, find more balance, and sometimes there was even a glimmer of hope. Through God, survival of what has seemed impossible has taken place. I know I am not alone in my struggles. There are others out there who have been through even more than me and it is my prayer that this series of work will illuminate that we do not struggle alone, that there IS hope, and that there is definitely "Beauty in the Midst of Struggle".

Blessings, Gretchen Smith

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Check out her art at • www.tallartist.com

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