

# CHOICES

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**Ways To Walk  
Out Your Faith**

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# CHOICES

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# INTRODUCTION

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**Many people  
have the wrong  
concept of faith!**

Have you ever struggled to define what you believe? Maybe you have even questioned the existence of God altogether.

On one of my flights, I found myself seated next to a man reading a book on spirituality. We struck up a conversation and when I mentioned I was a pastor, he admitted he was intrigued with spiritual matters and had studied all the world religions. Despite his interest, in his heart he was an atheist. “I really wish I believed in God and I often find myself envying people with faith,” he said. “But I just don’t believe.”

My conversation with this man made me realize that many people have the wrong concept of faith. So then, what is faith?

# 1

## Choosing to Trust

**Faith isn't something you come across by chance; it's a conscious decision to trust.**

I thought about this man from the plane's words for a while. As I looked out the airplane window at the clouds, an analogy came to mind.

Several weeks before I was in the airport waiting for a flight when CNN reported a plane had crashed in another continent halfway around the world. As my plane arrived and passengers were boarding, I felt a bit of fear and doubt. For a moment I reconsidered getting on that plane. After thinking about the consequences, I decided to trust and believe that the pilot would get me home safely. **Faith is like that. It is deciding to put your trust in Jesus.**

**Faith isn't something you come across by chance; it's a conscious decision to trust.**

*The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see. **Hebrews 11:1 (MSG)***

In life we are taught to be wise when it comes to trusting. You don't marry someone you just met. You don't trust someone to babysit your kids without thoroughly checking their track record. Trust in Jesus is also built over time, by spending time in His Word and meditating on His promises.

As you read the Bible, understand His promises and realize how much He loves you, your faith (trust) grows. **Something powerful takes place when you trust Jesus.** You gain the power to achieve amazing things. The mistakes of the past no longer have a hold on you when you realize the new life you have through Him.

# 2

## Choosing Courage

### Courage involves doing the right thing regardless of how you feel.

Fear can mask as other emotions, making it difficult to detect. For example, if something causes you to get angry instantly, fear may be at the root. Also, frustration and irritability are often rooted in fear.

By spending time in God's Word and in His presence, you will become more aware of your emotional over-reactions. Holy Spirit will help you get to the heart of the issue and grow beyond it. Once you realize that you have fear in an area of your life, it is important to know that **fear is the direct opposite of faith**. Fear envisions the worst scenario while faith imagines a great outcome. You can choose which of the two directs your actions.

*He said to them, Why are you so timid and fearful? How is it that you have no faith (no firmly relying trust)?* **Mark 4:40 (AMPC)**

When choosing to have courage, you may still feel the fear but that is okay. You see, **courage involves doing the right thing regardless of how you feel**. A courageous person feels just as much fear as the next person, yet they do the right thing regardless of the fear.

With God's help, you can challenge every fear. Refuse to let it control you. Instead, replace it with God's Word and press through the fear into all God has for you.

# 3

## Choosing to Build

### You are called to build!

When God asked Noah to build an ark, it was no small request. The massive boat took years to build and although Noah faced bitter ridicule, he kept going. Despite ridicule, he continued to have faith.

*By faith, Noah built a ship in the middle of dry land. He was warned about something he couldn't see, and acted on what he was told. The result? His family was saved. Hebrews 11:7 (MSG)*

**Supernatural strength flows out of us when we do things in faith.** Without it, Noah could never have done what God needed him to do. Because he developed an unshakable belief that if God said it would happen, it would happen, **he saved his family** and the fate of mankind.

The church is much like Noah's ark. Every week, life-giving churches receive reports of restored marriages, miraculous occurrences of physical and emotional healing and wayward kids who come back to God. **Life-giving churches save families.**

Like Noah, you are called to build something that will save your family. In Matthew 16:18 (NLT), Jesus expressed His call by saying *I will build my church*. He also said that you will do the same works He has done, *and even greater works*, which must mean that you are also called to build His church (John 14:12)!

Do not discount your importance to your local church. Jesus needs you to stay in faith, believing and doing your part to grow your church. **Your willingness to build is crucial. It is saving families. It is saving your family.**

# 4

## Choosing to Act

### God wants you to dream big but He also wants you to take action.

If your dream is to start your own business, take a management course. If you want to be a songwriter, turn off the television and pick up a pen. **When you move towards your goal, God can place the right people and opportunities in your path to help make your dreams come true.**

Sadly, many people give up on their dreams. They get stuck in a rut and lower their expectations, convincing themselves that they do not want anything more. This is not God's will for your life.

*Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds."*

**James 2:18 (NLT)**

**God has planned an amazing destiny for you and He will help you and guide you along the way if you will choose it.** He may not hand you a road map but He has provided you with talents, skills and natural abilities that can help to point you in the right direction.

Put some thought and prayer into it and then take action, with wisdom. Never get stuck waiting for the ideal conditions or an obvious sign to come from God for you to get moving. The easiest way to ensure you will not miss your destiny is to keep moving forward. **He will lead you as you go.**

**You do not have to merely wish for a life of adventure. Go out and find it with God.**

# 5

## Choosing Commitment

### Establish your heart on the things that really count.

At the first hint of trouble, some walk away. Many abandon things they really do value: their marriages, family relationships or a great job over trivial things. Why?

**We need to get back to having hearts that are established.**

*Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace. Hebrews 13:9 (NKJV)*

When your heart is established on something, you are committed to it whole-heartedly. On the other hand, a half-hearted approach to life yields only half-hearted results. When you only half commit, problems can make you let go of what means the most to you.

Hebrews 13:9 tells us that it is good to have a heart that is established by grace—a whole-hearted confidence in the love and mercy available to us because of Jesus, not because of anything we have done to earn it. When your heart is established by grace, everything you see and experience becomes filtered through grace. It is **your set point**—your **non-negotiable** belief.

Your heart can also be established in your marriage. You become whole-heartedly committed with a confident determination that you will both work through any disagreement. You can also be whole-heartedly committed to Jesus. **Your faith is set— non-negotiable. You refuse to be deterred when someone challenges your faith.** Things may happen that will shake your world, but they never knock you off your committed path.

**Today, take the jump. Get really committed. Establish your heart on the things that really count.**

# CONCLUSION

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**The power of the Gospel is the miraculous ability to grow and change every day as you choose to build a relationship with God.**

As you read the Bible, you will also discover many principles for living. You will learn how to build a great marriage, raise great kids, excel in your career and overcome habits that keep you from living to the fullest.

*Because if you acknowledge and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord [recognizing His power, authority, and majesty as God], and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **Romans 10:9 (AMP)***

**Never forget, however, that the real power of the Bible is not in its principles. It is in the Gospel of Jesus.** The power comes from believing that God sent His only Son to die for you. Nothing else can compare to the transformation that occurs when you admit you need Jesus in your life and you accept Him as your leader.

Trust that Jesus has done all that's necessary to earn you an amazing relationship with God and experience God's grace: the miraculous ability He gives you to grow and change every day.

# Supernatural Promises

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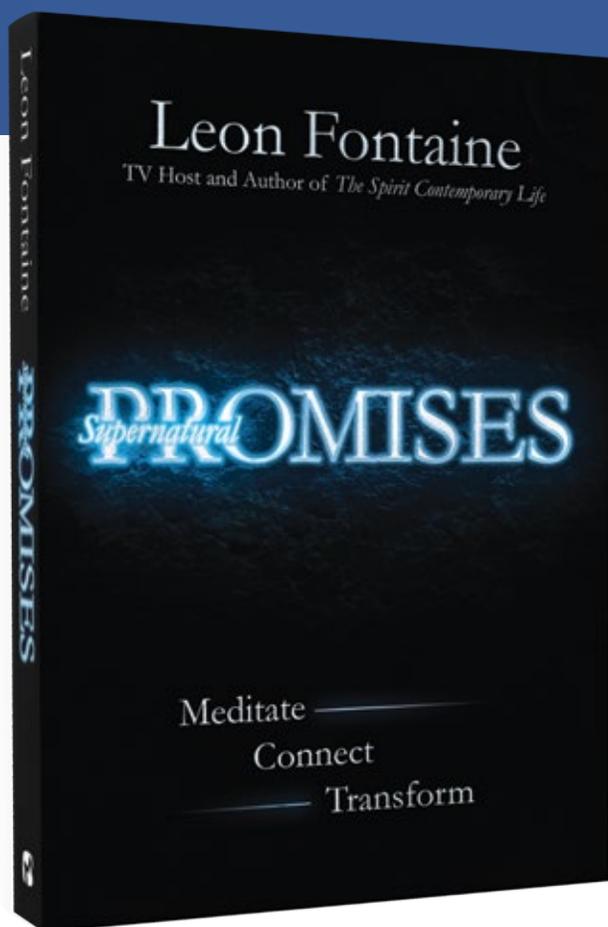
Exercising our faith is a choice. Many believers know God's Word in their head, but haven't connected with it at the heart level. They haven't moved past what I like to call, "mental assent". When they don't see change happening, they get frustrated and feel as though their faith isn't working.

But something powerful takes place when you not only read the Word, but meditate on it and speak it out loud. It begins to go to work on your deepest beliefs. You paint a picture in your heart of what it would look like to walk in health, radiate joy, be full of peace and prosper in every area. In fact, it's at the heart level that miracles are unleashed.

My latest book, *Supernatural Promises*, will walk you through God's promises in over 70 different areas. I'll show you:

- the Biblical steps to meditation,
- how to connect with God's Word in a powerful, personal way, and
- how to bring about real change from the inside out.

When you donate \$40 or more to Miracle Channel, we'll send you a copy of *Supernatural Promises* as our way of saying thank you. **Click here** to get your copy and see real, lasting transformation take place.



## ***Supernatural Promises***

**GET THIS BOOK**

\*Offer available only in Canada.



# MIRACLE CHANNEL IS TELEVISION WITH PURPOSE.

## Mircle Channel

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It is reaching people with the hope of Christ through contemporary, life-changing programs.

In addition to airing programming from popular ministries such as Joyce Meyer, Joel Osteen and Joseph Prince, the channel airs documentaries, talk shows, movies, news, live programs and children's shows.

Miracle Channel has been leading the Christian television industry in Canada since 1996 as the first, and still the only, all Christian broadcaster.

## Leon Fontaine

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Leon is the CEO of *Miracle Channel*, host of *The Spirit Contemporary Life*, and the Senior Pastor of *Springs Church*, one of the largest churches in Canada.

His weekly messages broadcast across North and South America, Asia, Africa and other far-reaching parts of the world.

Leon's daily devotional, *Devoted with Leon*, is sent by mail and email to thousands of readers.

