



RISE UP!

HOW TO BUILD **STUBBORN FAITH** FOR HEALING

LEON
FONTAINE

Fight for What's Yours With Stubborn Faith

John 10:10 (AMPC)

"The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)."

Too many people accept their circumstances without a fight because they think God somehow condoned them. But the truth is that he wouldn't promise health and then put sickness on you. He wouldn't have sent Jesus into our world so we could "have and enjoy life" (John 10:10, AMPC) but then try to make our lives miserable at the same time!

Discover your rights by searching out God's promises and then exercise your authority by claiming them over your life. Has anything been happening lately that has been stealing from you, killing or destroying a certain area of your life?

If so, take authority over it today. Say, "Father, I know that this situation is not your will for my life. Jesus came so I could have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance to the full, until it overflows. Thank you in advance for giving me the wisdom, strength, power and peace I need to overcome this situation completely!"

Authority Over Sickness

As you begin to understand the authority you have in Christ, it changes the way you pray. For example, let's say you're fighting some sort of illness in your life. According to Acts 10:38, sickness comes from the enemy, and as a believer, **you have the authority to overcome ALL the power of the enemy.**

So, instead of praying, "Father, please heal me," pray this way: "Father, Jesus said that he's given me the authority to trample on all the power of the devil, and that includes this sickness. Sickness, I command you to get out of my body in Jesus' name."

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV)

"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith."

Then, believe that you will begin to recover (which may or may not take time) as you **continue to claim promises of health:** "I'm claiming health for my entire body because of Jesus. By His wounds, I am healed (Isaiah 53:5)!"

Stubbornness isn't usually considered to be a good trait, but it can be... especially when we're talking about faith.

Having stubborn, tenacious, never-give-up faith is a good thing—a very good thing.

However, I do want to clarify that I'm not talking about the kind of stubborn faith that borders on stupidity.

That may sound harsh, but we have to be careful not to ignore wisdom. In an effort to walk in faith, sometimes believers think they need to refuse to follow conventional means of helping themselves. But we can operate in faith and walk out healing while following the doctor's directions. We can walk in God's supernatural provision as we learn and apply knowledge about how to better our finances.

Faith doesn't require us to sit back and wait for God to do it all without any effort on our part.

Faith requires tenacity.

So, how can we learn about this stubborn faith and how it works? In the Bible, of course! Each story of miraculous healing or provision we find in the Bible was included to teach us something about faith, and we're going to go through several to learn about developing the kind of stubborn faith that sees the miraculous.

When you're standing in faith for a promise from God's Word, that promise is already yours in Christ, so **don't give up**. Whether it's a financial miracle, a relationship miracle, a physical miracle, or anything else God has promised us, stand strong because stubborn faith will take you through!

Faith Means Pushing Through

I'd like to share an example that teaches us about one aspect of this faith that produces the miraculous. In Mark 5, we find the account of the woman who came to Jesus for healing from continual bleeding. What I want you to notice is that the Bible says **she pushed her way through** a large crowd on her way to Jesus.

Mark 5:34 (NKJV)

"And He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.'"

Why is this important? There will be times in your life you will have to push through when you want to quit, whether that's in school, in your career, in your relationships or in taking back your health.

Whenever you feel as if things are falling apart, that's the time to **push through**—past doubt, pain, tiredness or a negative diagnosis. Then **hold tight** to the faith-building, life-giving promises of God's Word, which is how you bring the experience of those promises into your life.

There will be times when you need to push through to the promises of God. To build stubborn faith, you'll need to get tenacious about **reading and meditating upon God's promises** in the Bible, about **listening to messages** that teach you about what is yours in Christ, and about **getting out to church** even when you don't feel like it.

Are you exercising your authority over sickness?

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Stubborn faith involves pushing through whatever you're facing to the promises of God's Word. **It's through the power of His Word—it's power to renew your mind—that you'll begin to walk in the miraculous!**

Faith Requires Action

We're talking about stubborn faith—faith that produces the miraculous power of God. The second aspect of this kind of faith: **ACTION**.

Luke 5:19 (NKJV)

"And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus."

In Luke 5, we find the story of four friends lowering a sick man through the ceiling to where Jesus was preaching so he could be healed. The thing that impresses me about these men is that they took action. They didn't sit around. When they heard about Jesus, they loaded their friend on a stretcher and carried him through the streets. People probably ridiculed them, but **their stubborn faith motivated them to carry on.**

Now, as if that weren't enough, when they got to the house where Jesus was preaching, it was so full they couldn't get in. But did that stop them? No! They somehow hoisted that full-grown man up to the top of the house, made a hole in the roof and lowered him down to where Jesus was and the man was healed.

Stubborn faith produces results!

What are you standing in faith for? **Let that stubborn faith motivate you to take action**—whether that involves reading up about God's promises to build faith or some sort of practical action you can take to better your situation. If it's in line with God's principles and it moves you toward God's promises, taking action will bring you a step closer to your goal.

Who's in Faith with You?

It was the man's friend's stubborn faith, and the action they took as a result of that faith, that brought about his healing. These are the kind of people we need around us when we're going through a tough time.

Luke 5:20 (NKJV)

When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

If your friends always see the glass as half empty and talk about the worst-case scenario, you will have to fight just to keep your faith up around them. That's not who you need around you.

You need people who have stubborn faith—people who are not only going to pray with you and for you, but who are willing to take action to help you walk out God's promises.

This is why it's so important to get involved in a local church. If you can, **spend time with other believers** who get into the Word of God and who are developing the kind of stubborn faith we've been discussing. Even if it's just through an online chat room, you can connect with others who will believe with you and who won't quit!

The acquaintances you choose are so important!

They can either join their faith with yours or they can cause you to doubt and cost you your miracle. **Choose friends who will provoke you to have faith.** When you're ready to give up, they will spur you on, saying "Come on, get up! Let's keep going!" That's the kind of friends you want.

Faith Won't Back Down

We've discussed the importance of pushing through, of taking action, and of choosing the right friends, and now I'd like to cover another aspect of stubborn faith: **REFUSING TO BACK DOWN.**

In Mark 10, we find the story of Blind Bartimaeus. When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was walking by, he started to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" (v. 47). People in the crowd told him to be quiet, but Bartimaeus called out all the louder.

Mark 10:48-49 (NKJV)

Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called.

Bartimaeus refused to give in to public opinion, even though his behaviour certainly would have cost him. As a beggar, he relied on those around him to look after his needs, and by refusing to listen to the crowd, he risked upsetting the very people he depended upon for survival. Yet Bartimaeus wouldn't back down, and he was healed.

Even if the majority says you should just give up and accept your current situation, **don't back down.** When people say that miracles aren't real because they can think of someone who prayed and didn't get their miracle, don't let that shake your faith. You can't allow a few contrary examples to alter your faith in God's promises!

We may not be able to explain why everything happens the way it does, but we can still stay stubborn in our faith. **God's Word is true and His promises are real,** no matter how things look in the natural, so **keep believing and never back down!**

Faith Won't Take No for an Answer

Having stubborn, tenacious, never-give-up faith is a very good thing!

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We all need stubborn faith—faith that produces the miraculous. We can find example after example in the Bible of this kind of faith, and each one was included for a reason. Each has something to teach us about faith, next I'd like to cover an aspect of faith that's highlighted in Matthew 17: **NEVER TAKING NO FOR AN ANSWER.**

In Matthew 17:14-20, we find the account of a man who brought his son to Jesus to be healed. The man was desperate. His son was an epileptic whose seizures often caused him to be thrown into the fire or into the water, so the man feared for his son's life.

Matthew 17:16, 18 (NKJV)

"I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

The man had witnessed Jesus' disciples doing miracles, so he brought his son to them to be healed, but they couldn't set him free. Now, this may have been enough to dissuade some, but this man had stubborn faith. He wouldn't take no for an answer, and when he brought his son to Jesus, he was healed.

God's promises are true and if you are a believer, they are yours.

It doesn't matter how many times you've prayed. It doesn't matter how many times others have prayed for you or laid hands on you. It doesn't matter how many doctors or experts have said that there's no hope. **Stubborn faith says, "It's God's will that I receive His promises, so I'm not taking no for an answer!"**

Faith Stands During Recovery

One thing to keep in mind is that stubborn faith doesn't necessarily produce instant miracles, but that makes it no less miraculous. **Stubborn faith is faith that stands the test of time.**

Often when we talk about the miraculous, people envision an instant healing, instant answer to prayer, instant financial windfall, or instant relationship fix. But the miraculous often takes place bit by bit, one step in front of the other, over time.

Mark 16:18 (NKJV)

They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.

Take a look at this verse, it doesn't say, "They will lay hands on the sick, and they will be instantly healed." It says, "They will recover." Recovery implies time. **Just because you don't receive an instant miracle doesn't mean that God has abandoned you in your situation!**

We find this principle all throughout the Bible. In fact, almost all of Jesus' parables that taught about faith involved a process that took time. He used examples such as seeds growing in soil, which take time to germinate and grow. First you get the blade, then the stalk, then the corn, and only after it ripens do you reap your harvest.

If you want a life that experiences the power of God, it's going to take stubborn faith. You're going to need to keep praying and believing for the best. Keep studying the Word of God. Keep challenging your misbeliefs and keep changing. **Continue to set your hope on God's promises, and you will have what He says!**

Mark 8:23-25 (NKJV)

When He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. And he looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking." Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly.

Often we think that a recovery type miracle somehow shows a lack of faith. We think that if we believe hard enough or strong enough, we will get an instant miracle. But did you know that even Jesus performed a recovery-type miracle that wasn't instantaneous?

In Mark 8, we find the example of Jesus laying hands on a blind man to heal him. The first time Jesus laid His hands on the man, he was only partially healed. Jesus reached over and touched him again, and only then was the man's sight completely restored.

Sometimes change takes time. During times like these, stay stubborn!

I don't mean that you're stubborn from the perspective that you have to take your miracle from God. He's already blessed us with every blessing, so it's not that you have to convince Him! It's just that **faith involves a process**. It takes time to renew your mind—to change how you think and what you believe so you can receive God's promises.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (MSG)

Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens.

Keep believing, keep studying God's promises, and keep thanking God for the answer. **God's will IS for you to be healthy and blessed**. It doesn't matter if you walk out His promises instantaneously or over time; what matters is that you know that health and blessings are yours, in Jesus' name!

Faith Means Being Thankful in Advance

According to 1 Thessalonians 5:18, you can give thanks no matter what. In fact, this is a key aspect to developing the kind of stubborn faith we've been talking about.

If you're going through a tough time right now, you may be wondering how you can possibly give thanks. But **what if giving thanks actually unleashed the answers you were waiting for?**

Now, this doesn't mean you have to give thanks FOR everything that happens. We live in a world that is far from perfect and awful things happen to good people. God doesn't send bad

Let stubborn faith motivate you to take action!

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things our way so He certainly doesn't expect us to thank Him for them. But **you can thank Him for the blessings you have, and for the answer to your requests...in advance.**

This is what Jesus did in Mark 8 when He multiplied one loaf of bread and a few fish to feed thousands. It says that He first gave thanks for what He had, but when you think about it, He really had nothing to be thankful for. He had a measly amount of food and thousands of hungry people to feed, but He gave thanks anyhow...for what He had and for what He trusted God to do. After giving thanks, an incredible miracle occurred.

Faith Keeps Going, No Matter What

If you are facing an extremely difficult time in your life right now, thank God in advance for what you are believing for, knowing that He cares for you so much that He even has the hairs on your head numbered.

You can know with confidence that He always hears your prayers and is ready and willing to help.

When we're standing in faith for something, sometimes the answer seems like it'll never come. But that's not the time to doubt. That's when you need to exercise stubborn faith—faith that keeps going, no matter what.

Romans 8:31 (NKJV)

*What then shall we say to these things?
If God is for us, who can be against us?*

We as believers often make the mistake of giving up too soon. We keep believing for a while, but if we don't receive the promise within what we feel is a reasonable amount of time, we assume that it isn't God's will. The trouble is, that's completely incorrect!

God's will is not confined to our experience.

Is it God's will that all would go to heaven? Yes, 2 Peter 3:9 says so. But if that is God's will, then why isn't it happening? Why have millions gone into eternity without knowing Christ? It's because many other factors come into play here on earth. We live in a fallen world. Satan has influence. Mankind has been given free will and our choices sometimes have consequences. **It is ALWAYS God's will that we receive His promises**, and just because we don't get them right away doesn't mean it's not going to happen.

Stubborn faith recognizes that sometimes there are factors delaying our healing or miracle, but that's not a reason to give up. Even when things plateau or they don't happen the way you hoped, **come back to a firm trust in His promises.**

Remind yourself that what you're believing for IS His will because you can find it in the Bible. And with that settled, just keep problem solving and learning, empowered by the infusion of strength and joy and peace you get from knowing that **God is on your side.**

Faith Works for Big Things and Small

Sometimes we believe for too little. It's not that God isn't into helping us with the little things. He is. He even knows the number of hairs on our heads. God wants us to trust Him for the little things, but **He wants us to believe for the big things, too.**

Acts 3 is an example of a man who believed for too little. A lame man was begging by the city gate when he saw Peter and John approaching and held out his cup for money. Little did he know, but he was asking far too little. These men had the power of Jesus in them, so he could have expected to receive full healing, along with the potential to provide for himself for the rest of his life!

Acts 3:4-6 (NKJV)

And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." So he gave his attention, expecting to receive something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

When Peter spoke to the man, he looked up expecting to receive money from Peter. Not in his wildest dreams did he expect his legs to crack and pop back into action—but **Peter got him expecting something, and I believe that was the key to this miracle.**

As soon as the man looked up in expectation to receive, Peter reached down to him and by the power of God at work through Peter, his legs were instantly healed!

Are you expecting big things from God? God's promises for your life cover every need you have. **Start expecting His blessings, healing and provision in every area of life!**

Faith Stays Open

Mark 6:5-6 (NKJV)

Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And He marveled because of their unbelief.

One thing that can get in the way of walking in faith is when we become too familiar with the people God wants to use to bless us. Mark 6 provides a great example of this. Jesus had returned to his home town to minister to the people there, but because they were so familiar with Him, they couldn't receive from Him. They said, "He's just a carpenter—Mary's boy. We've known him since he was a kid" (v. 3, The Message). Their familiarity limited what God wanted to do.

The same can happen in our lives today. When we're standing in faith for something, God will often use imperfect people to bless us or pray for us. But if we are focused on those people's imperfections instead of the fact that God is able to work through any believer, we won't receive what He is trying to bring into our lives.

Are you expecting His blessings, healing and provision in every area of life?

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We have to remember that **every believer is a son or daughter of God**. Because we know their faults, we think God can't use them, but God even used a donkey in Numbers 22 to speak to a prophet. He can use anyone and anything!

God wants to bless you, encourage you, and help you through the people He's placed around you. Stubborn faith involves putting your judgments aside and staying open to receiving from God through anyone, because God works in mysterious ways!

Faith won't tolerate sarcasm or cynicism.

In Mark 5, we find an example of when Jesus raised a girl back to life. One thing I want you to notice is Jesus' reaction to the people who ridiculed His faith. He said to them, *"Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping."* And they ridiculed Him. But when **He had put them all outside**, He...took the child by the hand, and said... *"Little girl, I say to you, arise."* Immediately the girl arose and walked. **Mark 5:39-42 (NKJV)**

Sarcasm and cynicism are really doubt and unbelief, communicated in a way to diminish you. It's prideful and arrogant, and Jesus wouldn't tolerate it. The first thing Jesus did when He came into the girl's home was He sent those sarcastic people out.

Sometimes faith requires separation.

Sarcasm and cynicism oppose stubborn faith, which is why you can't be around people who ridicule your faith if you want to develop the kind of faith that sees the miraculous. **You need to surround yourself with those who will believe with you**, not incite doubt and unbelief in you, especially when you're facing a storm.

This may mean you need to set boundaries with some of your friends and family, letting them know that you need them to be positive around you. It may even mean that you need to separate yourself from some of the people in your life. And if you tend to speak negatively, replace that habit with claiming God's promises instead. It will be worth it to develop the kind of stubborn faith that sees the miraculous!

What Do I Resist?

Sometimes we as believers put up with things we were never meant to tolerate. We stop resisting things that are preventing us from having what we've been promised in Christ.

The truth is, **we have the power within us to resist** every negative thing the enemy tries to trick us into accepting, but first we need to be very clear about what is from God and what is not. This is a big issue, because if we think something is from God when it's really been sent to destroy us, we're not going to fight against it.

1 John 3:8 (NKJV)

For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

For example, many people believe that God sometimes sends sickness our way to teach us things. We do not find evidence in the Bible that God orchestrates or allows sickness on us. In fact, He has promised us health and healing.

The Bible is very clear about what to resist and what to submit to, and as we renew our minds in the Word, there's a transformation that takes place (Romans 12:2). We begin to resist those things that are from the enemy almost instinctively, because everything within us begins to reject what he sends our way.

You're empowered to resist the enemy's lies!

If you're struggling in an area, it's time to develop some resistance. Study God's promises to find out what to submit to and what to resist. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil, and He dwells in you as a believer. Engage in the power of positive resistance by making the decision that you will not submit to anything that doesn't come from God!

The Power to Resist Sickness

We as believers are empowered to resist what isn't from God. We've been given the spirit of faith inside us, so no matter what comes against us, we have the power to resist and overcome. For example, when something is attacking our bodies, sometimes we can begin to make the illness a part of our identity. We start to refer to it as "my arthritis" or "my cancer." But when we begin to make the disease a part of us, we're submitting to the disease; we stop resisting it.

We don't have to give into sickness.

We might think that we're just being realistic when we accept our situation, especially if the doctors have told us that we will need to live with the condition for the rest of our lives. But **we should never submit to "there's no hope"!**

Yes, sickness will still push at you from time to time and you may have to deal with disease. Things happen on this planet that we can't always explain. I'm not saying that you should resist medical help or pretend that the illness isn't there. There are times when treatments or surgery are necessary, and that's okay.

1 Peter 2:24 (NKJV)

Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness— by whose stripes you were healed.

All I'm saying is, **don't accept the illness as your new normal**, as though it's a part of you. Resist those lies from the devil, and the Word promises that he will flee. **Submit to the truth of God's Word**, because it says that by Jesus' stripes, you were healed!

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Have you ever heard the saying, “You can’t have your cake and eat it too”? Without God, this may be true. We may only have the strength and resources to be successful in one or two areas of life, gaining that success at the expense of other areas. The thing is, **you can have your cake and eat it too—with God.**

Matthew 6:9-10 (AMP)

Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.’

We as believers have the blessing of God, which is so different from gaining success all on our own strength. We can put God’s promises to work. When it comes to believing for the future and speaking it over our lives, Jesus taught us to pray, “Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Is there poverty in heaven? Lack? Hurt and heartache? What about sickness and disease? None of these are God’s will, and they don’t exist in heaven, so...

we can believe that God’s will—prosperity, peace, joy and health— will exist on earth in our lives.

Does this mean that everything will be perfect? No, we live on a fallen planet, and things are going to come against us. We still need to work hard. There will be times when it seems like everything is going wrong, but those are the times when it’s most important to speak God’s promises and remember that **His will for your life is all good.**

That’s when you pray, “Father, your kingdom come, your will be done here in my situation,” and trust above all that **God will never fail you!**

Make sure you are continually cultivating your inner life.

There are two areas of life: our external lives and internal lives. Most of us are very good at cultivating our outer lives. We rush around all day, taking care of our to-do lists, worrying about how we look and what others think about us.

The trouble is, this outward focus is causing a crisis in the Christian world today. **Many of us have never learned to cultivate our inner lives,** and this lack of knowledge is robbing us of what is rightfully ours—including God’s incredible promises of health and healing.

This month’s bonus audio series is designed to help you cultivate this inner life of the heart, out of which flows “the forces of life.” It’s entitled Jesus Heals: Unlocking the Miraculous, and in it, you will discover how to build a strong inner life, which leads to experiencing more of God’s promises.

You'll learn how to **snuff out the enemy's attacks** against this powerful inner control centre, and live your life with a **calm, confident sense of rest** as you walk in more of the awe-inspiring power and authority that is yours in Christ.

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Leon Fontaine

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.

