

True Faith Is Relentless

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Please refer to chapter 14 in the *Extraordinary* book, along with session 9 of the teaching series.

“Everything we receive from the Lord is through **faith**. God does not respond to our need; He responds to our faith. This principle applies to all areas of life, including our ability to walk in holiness, live creatively, apprehend wisdom or inspired ideas, receive healing or deliverance from habitual behavior, etc. In short, faith is needed to receive *anything* heaven has provided for our lives, or, more importantly, for reaching our world with the Gospel. We cannot minister effectively unless it is done in faith.”

JOHN BEVERE
adapted from chapter 14

1. When Jesus lived on earth, He encountered people from all walks of life. Many of them physically touched Him, but not everyone who touched Him received from Him.

- a. Explain what consistently *grieved* Jesus and what consistently pleased Him.

Heaven's

APPEAL

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

—Hebrews 11:6 NKJV

- b. James 1:6-8 alerts us of the main obstacle to receiving from God and the consequences that result. What is that obstacle and what does this scripture mean, in your own words?

2. In each miraculous example presented in this session, there's a common theme that must not be overlooked. Read Matthew 15:28, Mark 5:34 and 10:52 and identify Jesus' recurring words, declaring the reason each person received their healing. What does this speak to you?

Heaven's

APPEAL

Fight the good fight of the faith. **Take hold** of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

—1 Timothy 6:12 NIV

3. Read the story of the Canaanite (Greek) woman who sought after Jesus to heal her demon-possessed daughter in Matthew 15:21-28 and Mark 7:24-30.

- a. Based on her request, how would you describe her character?

Voice of the Ages

"The *strength of faith* is not out there when you are winning the battle. The strength of faith is in the matter of *decisions*. Gideon's faith showed when he said, 'I won't quit. Even though I had 32,000 reduced to 10,000, I won't quit.' When that was reduced to 300, he said, 'I still won't quit.' ... Faith is courage. When you are reduced, you don't quit. Then when you are reduced again, you don't quit. When God says, 'Go against a major enemy,' you go. And you win. The victory is the fruit of faith."

—Dr. Lester Sumrall¹

PERSISTENT DETERMINED RELENTLESS

To *persist* literally means “to stand or be fixed.” It signifies “continuing steadily and firmly in the pursuit of any business or course commenced; to persevere.”

Similarly, *determination* is “the act of deciding a question in the mind; having a firm resolution, settled purpose and absolute direction to a certain end.”²

Another word for persistent and determined is *relentless*.

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TRUE FAITH IS RELENTLESS

- b. In what ways can you personally identify with her situation, and what can you learn from her example and apply in your life?

4. When Jesus traveled and ministered, large crowds gathered and followed Him everywhere He went. This was also true of His journey from Jericho to Jerusalem—the day He met the blind man named Bartimaeus.

Check out the story of Bartimaeus in Mark 10:46-52.

- a. Why do you think Jesus asked Bartimaeus, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

- b. There were probably others in the crowd who had needs, yet only Bartimaeus’ need was met. Why? What did he do to get his need met, and what can you learn from him?

“So Jesus said, ‘Have faith in God’ (Mark 11:22). ...Here is the sentence in the Greek: ‘And answering, the Jesus says to them: ‘Have you *faith of God*?’ That is the actual, word-for-word translation from the original.

Then the Master went on to tell them that *if they had such a faith*, not only would a little fig tree dry up at the exercise of such faith, but that mountains could be removed and cast into the sea. The lesson was that of the irresistible power of the faith that was the *faith of God*. It was indeed mountain-moving faith.

...Generally we interpret that scripture, ‘Have faith in God,’ to mean that we have confidence in God’s power to move a mountain. We say in our hearts, ‘If only I have faith enough *in* God; if only I can believe hard enough; and if only I can get doubt out of my heart, then God will move that mountain.’

You are trying to do the impossible. Your faith would never be strong enough or pure enough for that, though you were to struggle for a million years. ...There is a great deal of difference between what we call *the faith of man in God*, and the *faith of God* that is imparted to man. Such faith is not the child of effort, neither is it born of struggle. If it is the *faith of God*, then we get it *from* Him, and not from our mental attitudes or affirmations.

...God deals to *every* man his measure of faith (see Romans 12:3). ...God *gives the faith*. He measures it out! ...Faith *chases death away* from its vigil over bodies, *and it brings back the life* that had fled. Faith! *God’s Faith!*”

—Dr. Charles S. Price³

5. Probably one of the most powerful passages connecting faith and the demonstration of God’s kingdom power on earth is Mark 11:22-24. Look up these verses in a few versions of the Bible and write out the one that ignites the greatest fire of faith in your heart.

a. MARK 11:22-24

- b. List the step-by-step instruction Jesus gives for dealing with a mountain of adversity.

- c. What else is the Holy Spirit revealing to you about this passage?

“Jesus makes it clear that **when we pray** and command something to be done, that’s when we believe and *receive* what we’ve asked for. As far as we are concerned, *it will be done the moment we speak* forth our command. It doesn’t matter what our eyes see or our senses tell us; we have a more sure report to believe—the Word of our God.”

JOHN BEVERE
adapted from chapter 14

6. How long has it been since you *knew that you knew* God heard and answered your prayer?
- a. *Meditate on the message* of these powerful promises regarding God’s faithfulness:

If you belong to the Lord, reverence him; for everyone who does this has everything he needs. Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those of us who reverence the Lord will *never lack any good thing*.

—Psalm 34:9-10 TLB

And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you *in abundance*, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished *in abundance* for every good work and charitable donation].

—2 Corinthians 9:8 AMP

And my God will liberally supply (fill to the full) your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

—Philippians 4:19 AMP

What is the Lord speaking to you through these passages?

Check out more promises on God's provision at the end of this session.

- b. Take a few moments to jot down some **specific needs** you have. Then go to God in prayer. Thank Him for the awesome things He's *already done*, share the specific needs you *presently* have, and thank Him now for faithfully answering them.

LORD, HERE ARE SOME OF MY SPECIFIC NEEDS...

Thank You, Father, for faithfully supplying all my needs!

Voice of the Ages

"Take courage! God often allows us to go through difficulties to purify our souls and to teach us to rely on Him more (1 Peter 1:6-7). So offer Him your problems unceasingly, and ask Him for the strength to overcome them.

Talk to Him often. Forget Him as seldom as possible. Praise Him. When the difficulties are at their worst, go to Him humbly and lovingly—as a child goes to a loving father—and ask for the help you need from His *grace*."

—Brother Lawrence⁴

7. After reading the detailed account of the "Colorado Hayman Fire" and how John and his staff handled the situation, how has your faith been stirred? How can you apply this example to a situation you are currently facing?

Heaven's APPEAL

Be assured and understand that the trial and proving of your faith bring out endurance and steadfastness and patience.

—James 1:3 AMP

8. One of the blessings of developing *relentless faith* is the development of *perseverance* and *endurance*—key qualities we need in order to inherit the promises of God. (See Hebrews 10:35-36, James 1:4 and Galatians 6:9.)
- a. What are you to do when the enemy's after you? First Peter 5:8-9 reveals the answer; what is it, and how does this scripture call you to action?

FASCINATING FACT: PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF
FROM THE DIARY OF JOHN WESLEY . . . ⁵

Sunday, A.M., May 5	Preached in St. Anne's. Was asked not to come back anymore.
Sunday, P.M., May 5	Preached in St. John's. Deacons said, "Get out and stay out."
Sunday, A.M., May 12	Preached in St. Jude's. Can't go back there either.
Sunday, A.M., May 19	Preached in St. Somebody Else's. Deacons called special meeting and said I couldn't return.
Sunday, P.M., May 19	Preached on street. Kicked off street.
Sunday, A.M., May 26	Preached in meadow. Chased out of meadow as bull was turned loose during service.
Sunday, A.M., June 2	Preached out at the edge of town. Kicked off the highway.
Sunday, P.M., June 2	Afternoon, preached in a pasture. <i>Ten thousand people came out to hear me.</i>

9. Jesus reveals in John 10:10 that the enemy's aim is to *steal*, *kill* and *destroy* anything he can. But He came that we "...may have and enjoy life, and have it in *abundance* (to the full, till it overflows)" (AMP).
- a. What has Satan been trying to steal, kill and destroy in your life? How are you standing against him?

If you don't have a plan, ask the Lord to give you one and write what He shares.

- b. Is there a situation in your church, job or community in which the enemy is trying to bring death and destruction? If so, explain what it is and ask the Lord for a specific plan of action to *stand in faith* against him.

Heaven's

APPEAL

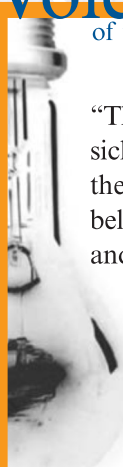
Yet we have the same **spirit of faith** as he had who wrote, I have believed, and therefore have I spoken. We too believe, and therefore *we speak*.

—2 Corinthians 4:13 AMP

10. In the story of the woman who had an issue of blood for 12 years, the Bible states that she was "...saying to herself, 'If I just touch his clothes, I will get well'" (Mark 5:27-28 TEV).

- a. What kind of things are you *saying to yourself* about the problem you're facing? How do you need to change your words to reflect a spirit of *faith*?

Voice of the Ages



"The key to overcoming sickness and problems is the **God-kind of faith**—believing with the heart and confessing with the mouth. Our lips can make us victors or keep us captives.

We can fill our words with faith or we can fill our words with doubt. ...Our faith will never rise above the words of our lips. ... Thoughts may come and may persist in staying. But if we refuse to put those thoughts into words, they die unborn. Cultivate the habit of thinking big things. Learn to use words that will react upon your own spirit. *Faith's confessions create realities.*"

—Kenneth E. Hagin⁶

- b. Your words are extremely important. Read the following scriptures and write what they mean to you:

Proverbs 18:20-21 • Psalm 19:14 • James 3:1-12

11. In Isaiah 60:1-5, we get a glimpse of the *extraordinary* life God has called us to live, especially in these last days. Read this passage and answer the questions below.

- a. How will God's glory manifest upon you and others—where will it come from?

- b. What will be the tangible results of His glorious power and presence in your life?

- c. What do you think is holding back this radiant manifestation?

Heaven's

APPEAL

So what makes you think God won't step in and work justice for his chosen people, who *continue* to cry out for help? Won't he stick up for them? I assure you, he will. He will not drag his feet. But how much of that kind of **persistent faith** will the Son of Man find on the earth when he returns?

—Luke 18:7-8 The Message

“Are you seeing how important faith is and why the Bible tells us it is ‘impossible to please God’ without it? We’re called to the extraordinary, but we can’t attain it without faith! Let’s shake off our grave clothes. We are not people of this world. We have God’s *divine nature* and are sons and daughters of light with exceeding great power within us. The devil is no match for the glorious church Isaiah prophesied. *Now* is the time for the church to arise and go forward relentlessly in faith and bring heaven to earth, in our lives and in the world of our influence!”

JOHN BEVERE
adapted from chapter 14

UNVEIL YOUR HERO

...did not make the cut for his
high school basketball team

Michael Jordan—6 World
Championships

the bottom line

God responds to our faith, not our need. Relentless, persistent faith is a determination to lay hold of God's promises through believing and speaking the Word and through Spirit-led actions. We must use our authority to bring heaven to earth.

Journal Your Journey

“Don't tolerate what Jesus paid such a high price to free you from. Don't tolerate death, don't tolerate destruction, and don't tolerate theft. *Speak directly to the opposition and command it to move into the sea!* Speak from your authority of being one with Him, joint heirs with Him, ruling in this life through the abundance of grace.”

JOHN BEVERE

adapted from chapter 14 and session 9

EYE-OPENERS

Undoubtedly, your extraordinary journey continues to yield new discoveries. What revelations about *relentless faith* and perseverance is the Holy Spirit showing you?

REVOLUTIONARY YOU

In light of all the truths you've pondered, what new goals are you challenged to establish to help develop a deeper determination in your faith?

PRAYER FOR PERSISTENCE

Lord, forgive me for my lack of faith and for praying passively as a result. Help me to become grounded in Your Word and begin to consistently and passionately pray Your promises instead of just talking to You about my problems. Give me Your grace to ask, and keep on asking; to seek and keep on seeking; to knock and keep on knocking on Your heart's door until I see it opened and the manifestation of Your promise come to pass. I love You, Lord, and I thank You for developing in me a true, relentless faith...in Jesus' name, Amen.

[based on Matthew 7:7-8]

All of Heaven IS BACKING YOU!

Behold! I have given you *authority* and *power* to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and [physical and mental strength and ability] over all the power that the enemy [possesses]; and nothing shall in any way harm you.

—Luke 10:19 AMP

Imagine a six-foot-four, 250-pound state highway patrol officer. In his muscular physical stature and rugged personality he has power, but his power is *limited*. His greatest power is invisible and comes from his position of authority—the authority of the state he represents.

Let's say this officer identifies the driver of an 18-wheeler exceeding the speed limit by 20 mph in a school zone. As a servant of the state, he must **enforce** the law to protect the people. When he turns his siren on to pull the driver over, it is the power of his authority that makes the driver stop, not his physical strength.

Similarly, God has given you power as a believer. However, not only has He

given you power, but He has also given you authority. In fact, you could say that all of heaven is backing you. And as a servant of the Kingdom of God, it is your duty to enforce the law, which is His will defined in His Word, in order to protect and rescue the lives of people.

T.L. Osborn personally witnessed the miraculous healings of multitudes as he and his wife, Daisy, traveled in more than 70 nations of the world. Examine this excerpt concerning our position of power and authority in his classic book *Healing the Sick*:

"You and I must look about us and see our position today. The believer today has the *same* power and authority that the believers had then, if we will use it.

...We are ordained to represent Christ in this life (John 15:16). We are to work the works of Jesus. We are to manifest His faith and His love. We are to speak the words of the Father which Christ gave us to speak (John 17:7,14).

...Let us take our place as authorized ambassadors for Christ, acting in Christ's stead (2 Corinthians 5:20). ...Ambassadors never doubt that the country which they represent will *back up* their word. They know it will. The very title of their office implies that.

...We should assume our place as a child of God, as an heir of God; and with this equal power with Christ, according to John 14:12, take our place, acting representatively in Jesus' stead, bringing to the world the blessings promised by our heavenly Father.

...God wants us to face our world and to meet her need today as Peter did in his day. This is *our* day of ministry. Roll up your sleeves and go set the captives free. Open the blind eyes, unstop the deaf ears, and break the bands of Satan and his sicknesses. The world is depending on you. You have this power in you. It is given to you by God. **Act on it** today. Begin today, acting in Jesus' name—in His stead."⁷

Write down any "explosions" of truth the Holy Spirit is revealing in your spirit through T.L. Osborn's excerpt.

MEDITATE on the MESSAGE...

What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor (NKJV). You have put him in charge of everything you made; *everything is put under his authority* (TLB).

—Psalm 8:4-6

The heaven of heavens is for God, but he put us in charge of the earth.

—Psalm 115:16 The Message

Read Genesis 1:26-28 and chapter 3—the account of man first receiving his authority and dominion and how he lost it. What new insights is the Holy Spirit revealing to you?

Jesus, the Son of Man and Last Adam, regained man's authority and dominion through His death, burial and resurrection. In Matthew 28:18-19, He said, "...**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...." What is the significant connection between these two statements, and what does it mean to you as a believer?

Read Ephesians 1:15 through 2:7 to get a good snapshot of your position in Christ.

According to Ephesians 1:20, where is Jesus right now?

As a member of the body of Christ, where are you?

And where is Satan and his demonic horde in relation to Jesus? How about in relation to *you*?

What new perspective does this give you as a believer?

“This is what it takes to live extraordinarily—this is what God has called us to do. We need to be people who know that heaven backs us. When you have the heart and mind of God in a situation and you’re doing His will, nothing can stand in your way!”

JOHN BEVERE

adapted from session 9

FOR FURTHER STUDY

GOD WILL PROVIDE

Exodus 23:25
 Psalm 31:19; 33:18-19; 84:11
 Malachi 3:10-12
 Luke 6:38
 2 Corinthians 9:8-11

PERSEVERANCE/ENDURANCE

1 Corinthians 15:58
 Galatians 5:1
 Philippians 1:27
 Colossians 1:9-12
 James 5:11,17-18

AUTHORITY


Matthew 16:19; 18:18-20
 Romans 13:1-3
 Hebrews 13:17

1. Dr. Lester Sumrall, *Faith Can Change Your World* (South Bend, IN: Sumrall Publishing, 1999) pp. 157-158. 2. Adapted from *Noah Webster's First Edition of an American Dictionary of the English Language* (1828), Republished in facsimile edition by Foundation for American Christian Education (San Francisco, CA 1995). 3. Charles S. Price, *The Real Faith: Original Pentecostal Classics Edition* (Wichita, KS: EM Publications, 2008) pp. 71-77. 4. Brother Lawrence, *The Practice of the Presence of God* (New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House, 1982) p. 54. 5. Illustrations on *Perseverance* (www.sermonillustrations.com, retrieved 6/2/09). 6. Kenneth E. Hagin, *Exceedingly Growing Faith* (Tulsa, OK: Rhema Bible Church, 2006) pp. 101-102. 7. T.L. Osborn, *Healing the Sick* (Tulsa, OK: Harrison House, 1992) pp. 168, 170-172, 174.

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TRUE FAITH IS RELENTLESS



*...Be careful what you are
hearing. The measure [of
thought and study] you give
[to the truth you hear] will
be the measure [of virtue
and knowledge] that comes
back to you—and more
[besides] will be given
to you who hear.*

—Mark 4:24 AMP

extraordinary