



BRAAM FAMILY



# AVOID BEING STUBBORN



Very often you will find that people are inclined to stubbornness. It can be towards principles or just a character trait. But what does the Bible reveal about it?

Romans 11 addresses the stubbornness of the Israelites and Numbers 4:10-14 shows the stubbornness of Moses. From these two stories, we can define stubbornness as to be determined to not change your position despite whatever fact and reasoning presented. Stubbornness is synonymous to the words obstinate, difficult and stiff neck, and it's a common characteristic amongst many people. Stubbornness is always perceived as a bad thing, but it's dependent on what you are stubborn about.

Being stubborn is good when you are taking a stand in God's things. It's beneficial when one remains unwavering in the principles set by God. For example, looking at the story of Paul in the book of Acts, he remained stubborn to preach the gospel. Even amid death threats, he didn't waver because he was instructed by the Holy Spirit to not move. However, what is unfortunate for many is that often when one is stubborn, they are stubborn in the wrong things. It could be a wrong idea, belief or way of living that they stuck into.

There are quite a few things that can make people stubborn especially to the things of God. The most common cause of stubbornness is unbelief, and it is narrated throughout the Old Testament. Israel's unbelief in God's power birthed stubbornness. Other factors that can lead one to become stubborn are fears, emotions, lack of wisdom and understanding and also a lack of clarity. Stubbornness is that one thing that makes God resist you, and that's because there is an element of pride in it. That pride says "my way is right, He doesn't know more than me, let see if He is even right".

Look at the story of King Saul in 1 Samuel 15:13-34, here King Saul didn't listen to the instructions that God gave him with regards to the war. He only did half of what he was instructed, and it cost him. Stubbornness arises when we think that we can do better than what God asks us to do. Stubbornness makes you obey at least half of the instructions, but half obedience is still disobedience. Moses struck the rock twice instead of speaking to it as per instruction from God, and because of that, he didn't step into the Promised Land (see Numbers 20:7-8).

God's instruction can seem ridiculous at times, but all He expects is obedience. In Joshua 6 we find the story of how the Israelites broke the walls of Jericho. The strategy seemed ridiculous but it worked. In Genesis, a simple instruction was given to not eat a specific fruit in the garden which seemed ridiculous, but not obeying cost the whole humanity. Stubbornness is costly, whereas obedience releases favor.

Just like in the time of Israel, we also live in a generation that is stubborn to the things of God. Many only obey to what suits them, they argue against anything else either verbally or silently. When God first spoke to Moses about him being the liberator of Israel (see Exodus 4:10-14), he was very vocal about not being the one to do it. Moses received clear instructions from God but he showed stubbornness to God, he verbally expressed it. On the other hand, we had Jonah. Jonah was instructed by God to warn Ninevah of its wickedness (Jonah 1), he said nothing in response to God's word and he simply ran away.

God often gives a gift of someone close to us that they can help us only if we can listen. Many times God checks our stubbornness with those He's put around us, it could be a friend, a family member or a mentor. Our success lies in the ability to listen to the voice of God in those He's put in our lives. Always pray to become a good listener, especially when you grow in knowledge. Because thinking that you know it all can become a source of stubbornness. "A fool is in love with his own opinion, but wisdom means being teachable" Proverbs 12:15 TPT.

Stubborn people are fixed or set in their opinion or purpose, and as a result, they become stuck in that. On the other hand, God is never stuck by us being stubborn. One's stubbornness gives room for Him to favor someone else, just like Saul's stubbornness caused him to be rejected and David was chosen. Similar scenario with Queen Vashti's rejection, it gave room for Esther's rise.

God can move His grace from one person to another, from one individual to another if the former does not cease to live a life of disobedience to God. He has shifted (at least in the times we are in) His blessing from Israel to the Gentile nations. When He shifts His favor to someone else is to make you feel jealous and so that you can come back to Him.

Paul speaks about Israel's rejection saying "Do I mean that the people of Israel fell, never to get up again? Certainly not! Their failure made it possible for the Gentiles to be saved, and this will make the people of Israel jealous". Romans 11:11 CEV.

Israel's rejection gave room for the Gentiles to be engrafted in and be called God's people. When God chooses someone, it can be as a consequence of someone else's rejection. Certain choices of God are the consequence of the rejection of certain people.

When God has invested in someone, His rejection is never final. If the person(s) turn back, God is willing to correct and reorient them. In this time of the church, Israel has been put aside, but this is only for a moment. He will turn back to them because the call of God is irrevocable (see Romans 11: 29).

If there's anything to be stubborn in, then it is for the things of God, any other comes with a price. "If you and your king want to be followers of the Lord, you must worship him and do what he says. Don't be stubborn! If you're stubborn and refuse to obey the Lord, he will turn against you and your king"

1 Samuel 12:14-15 CEV.

