

4. **Ask God for strength, courage and faith.**
Acts 4:29-33—Peter, John and the disciples prayed for more boldness.
Matt 7:7-11—We are to ASK when we are in need.
Luke 17:5—The apostles set the example of asking for more **faith**.
5. **Stir up God's Spirit.**
2 Tim 1:6—Paul's command to Timothy to stir up the Holy Spirit.
2 Cor 4:16—Renewing God's Spirit daily occurs by prayer, study, meditation and fasting.
Zech 4:6—Zerubbabel was encouraged to succeed by God's Spirit, not by might and power.
Acts 5:32—God gives His spirit to those who obey Him.
6. **Let God work with you.**
1 Cor 3:9-15—Trials will come to test us and try us—God will save us from fire.
James 1:2-4—Be patient through trials.
Matt 26:39—Christ prayed for God's will to occur and for His NOT to occur.
Phil 2:12-13—God works in us to will and to do—according to His pleasure.
7. **Never quit.**
Matt 24:13—We must endure to the end to be saved.
Luke 9:62—We are not fit for the Kingdom, if we begin and then quit.
Rev 3:10-13—We will be rewarded for persevering and overcoming.
We build courage and faith by enduring and overcoming, not by taking the easy way out.
8. **Fight fear by growing in God's love.**
1 John 4:8—Perfect love casts out fear.
2 Tim 1:7—God's is a Spirit of power, love, and sound mind, not a spirit of fear.

Five Enemies of Faith: Fear, Doubt, Human Reason, Anxious Thoughts, Forgetting God's Power
9. **Do not be a people-pleaser.**
Gen 3—Adam wanted to please his wife.
1 Sam 13:9-13—Saul was impatient and wanted to please the people.
Ex 32:1-6, 21-25—Aaron listened to the people and created an idol for them.
1 Kings 11:1-11—Solomon made altars to pagan gods in order to please his wives.

Courage to Act

- "Saying and doing nothing—acts of omission—can be just as unethical as the committed act, and often much more destructive" (p. 70).
- "Indifference or silence to unethical behavior demoralizes people, destroys organizations, and strangles our nation" (p. 67).

Source: Bethel, S.M. (1990). *Making a Difference: Twelve Qualities That Make You a Leader*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons.

VI. Conclusion

Courage and faith are inseparable. They are defining qualities of godly and effective leaders. The Bible reveals that courage and faith are important to God and that individuals God prepares to occupy positions in His coming kingdom learn to use faith and act courageously. All of us, especially leaders in God's Church, must develop faith and courage. We need these traits to overcome and resist the devil, and we need courage to effectively lead God's people and be truly effective instruments in God's hands. We all need to ask God to work with us to develop these vital aspects of leadership—courage and faith!

"We will need a depth of *faith* and COURAGE beyond human strength to hang in there and keep the faith. So *now* is the time to build that powerful relationship with the Living God and, through His Spirit, to develop the *courage* and *fortitude* to go through the trials and tests ahead, which we cannot now even fully comprehend."

Meredith, R.C. (May-June 2000). *Tomorrow's World* (p. 30).