

# Stubbornness is not a fruit of the Spirit



## Stubborn:

1. unreasonably determined: unreasonably and obstructively determined to persevere or prevail
2. dogged: carried out in a determined, persistent way ; met with stubborn resistance
3. hard to remove: difficult to remove or deal with a stubborn stain

Thesaurus: obstinate, immovable, inflexible, willful, mulish, obdurate, intractable, pigheaded

antonym: flexible

Positive rendering: persistent, dogged, tenacious, persevering, determined, stalwart

Exodus 13:15  
Judges 2:19  
Psalm 78:8  
Psalm 81:12  
Hosea 4:16

1 Samuel 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,  
And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.  
Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,  
He also has rejected you from being king."

### Characteristics:

- Self willed "I did it my way". Some people brag about their stubbornness
- Refusing to change
- Being unreasonable, leading to bad decisions, and in some cases wrong teaching
- Not receiving correction
- Un-teachable
- Controlling
- Immaturity
- Idolatry: Have a tendency to exalt themselves and their opinions

### Old Testament word: Patsar

Display arrogance, show presumption; the state or condition of haughty and proud behavior, so insisting on one's own way

### Ultimate Danger of Stubbornness:

- They are left to their own counsels
- Their life is a mess
- It sends people to hell

### Exhibited in:

- ✓ Refusing to hearken to God. Pr 1:24.
- ✓ Refusing to hearken to the messengers of God. 1Sa 8:19; Jer 44:16; Zec 7:11.
- ✓ Refusing to walk in the ways of God. Ne 9:17; Ps 78:10; Isa 42:24; Jer 6:16.
- ✓ Refusing to hearken to parents. De 21:18,19.
- ✓ Refusing to receive correction. De 21:18; Jer 5:3; 7:28.
- ✓ Rebelling against God. De 31:27; Ps 78:8.
- ✓ Resisting the Holy Spirit. Ac 7:51.
- ✓ Walking in the counsels of an evil heart. Jer 7:24; 23:17.
- ✓ Hardening the neck. Ne 9:16.
- ✓ Hardening the heart. 2Ch 36:13.
- ✓ Going backward and not forward. Jer 7:24.

1 Samuel 15:23

23 For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And self-will is as iniquity and idolatry.

DARBY

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as idolatry and teraphim (household good luck images).

AMP

23 For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry.

English Standard Version

23 "For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry.

NASB95

23 Disobedience is as bad as the sin of sorcery. Pride is as bad as the sin of worshiping idols.

New Century Version

23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.

NIV

23 Rebellion is as bad as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as bad as worshiping idols.

New Living Translation

Proverbs 29:1 He who is often rebuked, and **hardens his neck**, Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

Zechariah 7:11-12 "But they **refused to heed**, shrugged their shoulders, and stopped their ears so that they could not hear.

12 "Yes, they made their hearts like flint, **refusing to hear** the law and the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the Lord of hosts.

Acts 7:51 You **stiff necked** and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.

2 Peter 2:10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, **self-willed**. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,

Revelations 21:8 "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, **idolaters**, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Self will and Stubbornness proceed from:

- Unbelief (2 Kings 17:14)
- Pride (Nehemiah 9:16,29)
- An evil heart

In God's eyes, rebelling against His commandments and doing things our own way is just like the sin of witchcraft. In vs. 22, we read, "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice." God wants His people to have obedient hearts, and He is not interested in people who make a show of religious works and sacrifices.