HC - Persistent Faith & Courage: Don't Stop Reaching for Jesus (Attendee)
November 18, 2026
Derrick Thompson

Understanding Persistent Faith

Faith (Greek: Pistis) Faith is confidence, trust, and reliance upon God.

Perseverance (Greek: Hupomone) Steadfast endurance that refuses to quit despite pressure or delay.

Healing Class Definition: Persistent faith is continually trusting God and acting on His Word despite delays, difficulties, disappointments, or opposition.

Understanding Courage

Hebrew: Chazaq - Be strong**;** Grow firm**;** Stand strong

Hebrew: Amats - Be courageous**;** Be determined**;** Be resolute

Healing Class Definition: Courage is choosing to trust and obey God despite fear, uncertainty, pain, or opposition.

> **Faith believes God can. Courage keeps walking toward Him until He does.**

Read Mark 5:21-34

Point 1: Both Jairus and the Woman Refused to Stay Where They Were

Mark 5:22-23 (ESV)

> "Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet and implored him earnestly..."

Mark 5:27 (ESV)

> "She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment."

Notice: Neither person stayed home. Neither person accepted defeat. Neither person allowed circumstances to keep them from Jesus. (ref. Mark 5:22-23; Mark 5:27)

Jairus: His daughter was dying.

The Woman: Her body had been suffering for twelve years.

> **Persistent faith takes steps toward Jesus even when circumstances say otherwise.**

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Point 2: Faith For Healing Requires Courage

The Courage of Jairus

Imagine the fears:

- What if Jesus doesn't come?
- What if people criticize me?
- What if my daughter dies before He arrives?

Yet Jairus publicly humbled himself before Jesus.

The Courage of the Woman

The woman faced:

- Physical weakness
- Public shame
- Social rejection
- Previous disappointments

Yet she moved toward Jesus anyway.

Psalm 27:1 (ESV)
The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

- Courage is not the absence of fear. Courage is refusing to let fear make your decisions.

Point 3: Persistent Faith Pushes Through Delays

Mark 5:25-26 (ESV)
And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years...

- Twelve years.
- Twelve years of pain.
- Twelve years of disappointment.
- Twelve years of unanswered questions.
- Then another delay occurs. Jesus stops to minister to her while Jairus is desperately waiting. Imagine Jairus watching the clock.
- The woman experienced a twelve-year delay.
- Jairus experienced an unexpected delay.

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- Both discovered that delays do not stop Jesus.

Isaiah 41:10 (ESV)
Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God...

- Many people are waiting.
- The promise of God's presence remains true while we wait.

Point 4: Persistent Faith Keeps Speaking Hope

Mark 5:28 (ESV)
For she said, 'If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.'

- Her words revealed her expectation.
- She did not deny her condition. She declared confidence in Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 (ESV)
But test everything; hold fast what is good.

- Persistent faith holds tightly to God's faithfulness even when emotions fluctuate.

Point 5: Courage Refuses to Be Controlled by Fear

Deuteronomy 31:6 (ESV)
Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV)
For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

- Notice: God doesn't say fear won't come. God says fear doesn't have to rule.
- Common fears: Fear of diagnosis; Fear of future suffering; Fear of disappointment; Fear of death; Fear of never getting better
- Fear talks about what might happen. Faith talks about Who is with us.

Point 6: Persistent Faith Continues Praying

Luke 18:1 (ESV)
And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

- Notice: Jesus connects prayer with not losing heart.

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1 Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV)
Pray without ceasing.

- Persistent prayer keeps the heart connected to God.
- Persistent prayer is persistent faith speaking to God.

Point 7: God Supplies Strength for the Journey

Colossians 1:11-12 (ESV)
Being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy...

- Notice: Paul prays for endurance. Waiting requires strength. Believing requires strength. Standing requires strength.

Point 9: Stand Firm Like Jairus

- The woman received her healing. Then Jairus received devastating news.

Mark 5:35 (ESV)
Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?

- This may be the strongest example of courage in the entire chapter.
- Everything Jairus feared appears to happen.
- Yet Jesus says:

Mark 5:36 (ESV)
Do not fear, only believe.

1 Corinthians 16:13 (ESV)
Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

Matthew 24:13 (ESV)
But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Luke 21:19 (ESV)
By your endurance you will gain your lives.

- Jairus had to keep believing after receiving bad news.
- Many believers can trust God before the report. Courageous faith trusts God after the report.