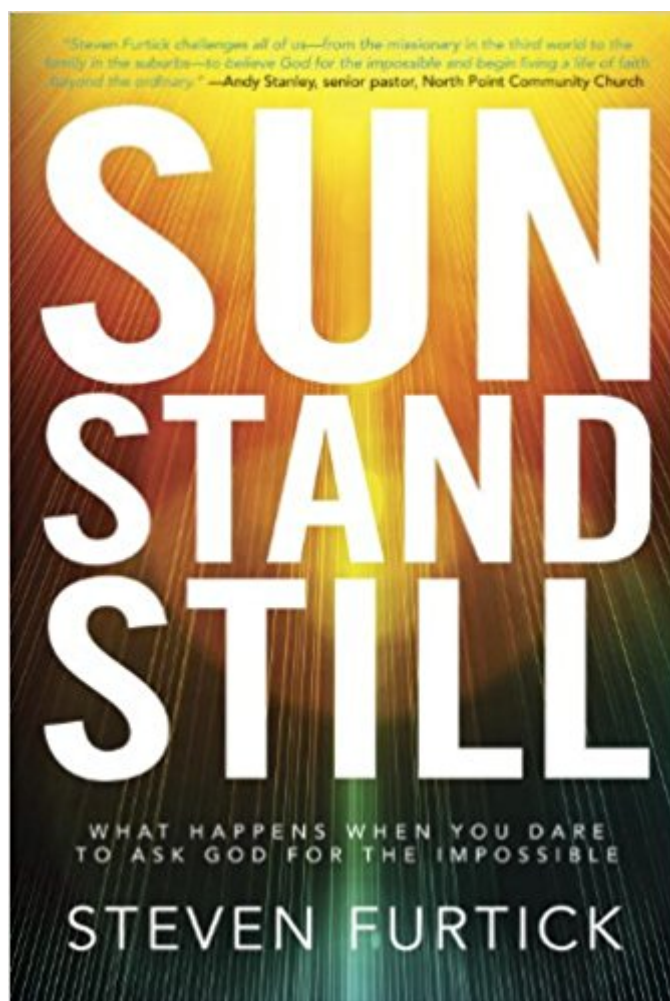


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Sun Stand Still: What Happens When You Dare To Ask God For The Impossible



Synopsis

If you're not daring to believe God for the impossible, you may be sleeping through some of the best parts of your Christian Life. "This book is not a Snuggie. The words on these pages will not go down like Ambien. I'm not writing to calm or coddle you. With God's help, I intend to incite a riot in your mind. Trip your breakers and turn out the lights in your favorite hiding places of insecurity and fear. Then flip the switch back on so that God's truth can illuminate the divine destiny that may have been lying dormant inside you for years. "In short, I'm out to activate your audacious faith. To inspire you to ask God for the impossible. And in the process, to reconnect you with your God-sized purpose and potential."

—Steven Furtick, from *Sun Stand Still* "Steven Furtick challenges all of us from the missionary in the third world to the family in the suburbs to believe God for the impossible and begin living a life of faith beyond the ordinary."

—ANDY STANLEY, senior pastor, North Point Community Church "I don't know anyone better positioned to challenge you to rise above mundane living and embrace faith-filled audacity than Steven Furtick."

—Craig Groeschel, senior pastor, LifeChurch.tv "For too long Christians have embraced a miniscule vision of faith. Steven Furtick reminds us that the God who accomplished the impossible through the great heroes of faith still desires to do the same through us today."

—Jentezen Franklin, senior pastor, Free Chapel "This book will show you that your hopes and expectations are truly just the beginning of what God can do."

—Ed Young, senior pastor, Fellowship Church

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Customer Reviews

Steven Furtick is the founder and lead pastor of Elevation Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, named by Outreach magazine as one of the top 10 fastest growing churches in the nation. In four years, Elevation has grown to more than 6,000 people in regular attendance in three locations. Steven holds a degree in communication from North Greenville University, and a Master of Divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Holly, have two young sons—Elijah and Graham—and make their home in the Charlotte area.

Welcome to Audacious Faith
Pastor Michael proudly showed me the place where his church was putting in new toilets. I was still adjusting to the smell, trying to pass it off like it didn't faze me. Like I walked down urine soaked dirt roads every day. "These toilets would not be very nice by the standards of your country," Michael explained. "I know that. But here in the slums of Kampala, Uganda, so many children are sick because the food they eat is cooked right next to the hole in the ground where they go to the bathroom. So our church is building the nicest toilets we can here for the children." I had a hard time concentrating as he went on laying out his plans. Because as soon as he said the word "children," my gaze drifted to a cluster of kids playing some variation of Capture the Flag on the trash heap behind the church. The church was really just a shed. And instead of a flag, the kids appeared to be competing for an orange peel. It was weird how content these kids seemed playing with just a peel—more content, it appeared to me, than a lot of kids back home seem playing with a Wii. And this garbage heap here on the edge of Pastor Michael's church property looked like the neighborhood hot spot. How, I wondered, would parents of elementary-school kids at my church react if they were asked to drop their children off at a playground like this one? Pastor Michael's church members obviously weren't worried about it. They had been under the shed worshiping loudly for about an hour, and I realized they thought nothing of the fact that there was a small goat eating breakfast on top of the trash heap right next to where their kids were tossing around the orange peel. A scrawny, hungry, scary-looking goat. Michael must have noticed that I was taking in the scene. "This is a Muslim hill," he continued, yanking my attention back to our conversation. "I am used to facing a lot of opposition. A lot of people do not want me here. Especially the

witch doctor who tried to destroy our church by threatening our members. But when we prayed for God to make fire fall down from heaven, and his house burned down that same week, he left us alone. I shot him a questioning look. “Do not worry,” he said, a twinkle in his eye. “He was not home at the time.”

For the rest of the tour, I could barely keep up with Pastor Michael. He was moving fast and talking even faster. I felt clumsy and white trying to dodge the mud puddles while he led me down alleys through the slum. This was his village, he said. With every step, he detailed how he wanted to transform it for Christ. A school on this lot. A doctor’s office on that lot. “For the children,” he kept saying. “She’s pretty, well paid, locally famous, and uber-talented. So people in our community are noticeably shocked when they show up to help serve breakfast at a homeless shelter and see Tonia in the kitchen making scrambled eggs.”

It happened the other day. She was volunteering with an outreach group from our church when somebody asked me, “Isn’t that the lady from the news?” “Yeah, that’s Tonia. She’s awesome.” “What’s she doing here?” “She’s serving.” “Huh. Wow. That’s impressive. I’d characterize it as audacious.”

Strictly according to her job title, she is a news anchor—a multiple-award-winning one at that. But news anchor doesn’t begin to capture the essence of who Tonia is. She’s a community service superhero who has designed her life around leveraging her on-camera talent to make an off-camera impact. She’s better at it than anyone else I’ve ever met. Charlotte is filled with teen moms, homeless families, and shut-ins who have been touched by Tonia’s passion to serve. And she’s relentless about recruiting others to serve with her.

In her latest project, she set out to convince thousands to join her for an initiative called Love Week. She was asking them to commit to giving five thousand hours of service to the city. In a single week. It had never been done before. I can’t say I was surprised when I heard that Love Week added up to more than ten thousand service hours. That’s just how Tonia rolls. When she gets a vision, it usually sounds a little out there. People try to explain to her that it’s never been done before. And I think she likes it that way. If it’s necessary, and it’s never been done, she seems to assume that’s because God intends for her to do it. To the untrained

eye, a pastor standing in the slums of Kampala, Uganda, and a news anchor scrambling eggs in Charlotte, North Carolina, don't have much in common. The challenges they face are as different as the hemispheres where they live. But I see them as twins: They share the same spiritual DNA. They're driven by the same passion. They accomplish ridiculously amazing things for God's glory. Their faith seems to be turbocharged from some source that the average Christian never quite taps into. It's hard to define exactly what sets Michael and Tonia apart from other people who claim to believe the same things they believe but lead, by contrast, mediocre lives. Most believers I've met actually do want to find the source of Michael's and Tonia's high octane faith—and they want it desperately. They just don't know where to look for it. Sun Stand Still is all about discovering that kind of faith. I call it audacious faith. By the time you finish this book, the same faith that pulses in Michael's and Tonia's everyday life will be pumping through your veins too. You'll understand that God has much more in mind for your existence on this earth than merely surviving. What you consider possible for your life will expand beyond anything you've ever imagined. And the way you approach God and experience him every day will change too. Radically. Suddenly. Irreversibly. But first, some honest disclosure. A THEOLOGY OF AUDACITY This book is not a Snuggie. The words on these pages will not go down like Ambien. I'm not writing to calm or coddle you. With God's help, I intend to incite a riot in your mind. Trip your breakers and turn out the lights in your favorite hiding places: insecurity and fear. Then flip the switch back on so that God's truth can illuminate the divine destiny that may have been lying dormant inside you for years. In short, I'm out to activate your audacious faith. To inspire you to ask God for the impossible. And in the process, to reconnect you with your God-sized purpose and potential. You could think of this book as a one-volume theology of audacity. You probably don't have one of those yet, but it's essential. In fact, if you ever encounter a theology that doesn't directly connect the greatness of God with your potential to do great things on his behalf, it's not biblical theology. File it under Heresy. I'll take that further: if you're not daring to believe God for the impossible, you're sleeping through some of the best parts of your Christian life. And further still: if the size of your vision for your life isn't intimidating to you, there's a good chance it's insulting to God. Audacious faith is the raw material that authentic Christianity is made of. It's the stuff that triggers ordinarily level-headed people like you and me to start living with unusual boldness. When you live this way, your eyes will be opened to see your day-to-day life in

vivid color. Your spiritual growth will accelerate at a supernatural pace. If you're like most Christians, audacity is not a word you use to describe your faith. Audacity, my dictionary says, makes regular people behave with "boldness or daring, especially with confident disregard for personal comfort [or] conventional thought." And, if you think about it, confident disregard for the status quo is the essence of the gospel. It describes the radical path Christ's life took on earth. It goes to the heart of what it means to live by faith. Of course, every believer in Jesus has a measure of faith – it's the prerequisite to salvation. But after that, if we're honest, we think of faith primarily in terms of a spiritual thought or a comfortable feeling. We hope it's enough to get us to heaven when we die. But in the meantime, it's barely enough to keep us praying, giving, and going to the eleven o'clock service. Let me ask you: does the brand of faith you live by produce the kinds of results in your life that you read about in the biblical stories of men and women of faith? Chances are, not even close. For most of us, this disparity is hard to live with. The chasm we see between our mundane spiritual experiences and the overcoming faith we read about in the accounts of biblical heroes is downright discouraging. It can create a heavy weight of condemnation and a sense of failure in our hearts. We can begin to feel like maybe our faith isn't the real thing. Some believers I've known have gotten so tired of faking faith that they have just given up altogether.

POSTTRAUMATIC FAITH DISORDER

I'll admit that faith is a sore subject for millions. It's been abused, mishandled, distorted, and ultimately disfigured. Sometimes it seems like there's a custom-tailored faith for everyone: If the Galatians 2:20 kind of faith "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" is too clunky for you, trade it in. Exchange it for an easier, no-money-down model. If trusting in the miracle-working power of Jesus is too out there for your modern mind, play it safe. Don't ever ask God to provide for you supernaturally. Don't dare to ask for physical healing or anything else that would put God on the spot. Because what if he doesn't come through? A lot of Christians I know stagger through life in a daze. Suffering from posttraumatic faith disorder, they hunker down in the basement, open a can of Beanie Weenees, and wait for the end of the world. Am I reading your mail? If so, you're probably stuck in spiritual survival mode. You've settled for spiritual mediocrity. You're not trying to be a hypocrite. It's just that so far the faith thing hasn't, well, worked for you. But we can't let abuses and

misunderstandings hold us back. God has no plan B. The Bible throws down the gauntlet in Hebrews 11:6: "Without faith it is impossible to please God." It doesn't get any plainer than that. Faith isn't just a Get Out of Hell Free card. It's the most vital building block of your relationship with God. And it's the only real foundation worth establishing your life on. We can't abandon the life-changing promise of full-frontal faith because some have dealt with the topic recklessly and unbiblically. It would be a shame for us to let bad experiences or past disappointments keep us bound, poor, and blind to what God wants to do in our lives. We've got to find a better way. THERE IS A BETTER WAY. You're about to discover what happens when you dare to believe God for the impossible, ask God for the impossible, then act in audacious faith for his glory. You're about to discover that faith is not a drug to sedate you through a life you hate; it's a force to transport you to another realm of reality. There is a better way, a higher calling to fulfillment and significance that God deeply desires for your job, your marriage, your parenting, your finances, and your impact on this world. That kind of life may be a long way off from where you live and breathe right now. And it may take a little convincing before you believe this kind of life is even an option for you. Maybe it will help if I introduce you to a man who experienced firsthand what happens when you live with audacity, believing God for the impossible. You're already a lot more like him than you think.

Sun Stand Still Many of us live life wanting to do more for God with our lives. We have dreams and aspirations that we want to accomplish for the Kingdom of God, but many times are too afraid to ask. **Sun Stand Still** by Steven Furtick (Pastor of Elevation Church in Charlotte, NC) tackles this very issue. In the book Furtick gives first-hand accounts about how he, and his church members have seen God do the impossible through what he calls "Sun Stand Still Prayers." The term "Sun Stand Still Prayer" comes from the book of Joshua when the leader prayed to God for the Sun to stand still during battle, and God honored his faith. Furtick goes throughout the book to prove the point that we should have the same type of audacious faith even today. As I read this book I couldn't help but look at my own life and dreams that I have for ministry. This book has challenged me to become audacious in my requests of faith to God. If you have a vision that God has given you, or if you just simply want to learn how to grow in faith with God and expand your mustard seed, **Sun Stand Still** is a must read. It will challenge you, and it will stretch your faith. I have to give it 5 stars! I received this

book for free from WaterBrook Multnomah Publishing Group for this review

Pastor Steven Furtick is by far one of my favourite preachers, and I was excited to read his book. Pastor Steven was right; this book is not for those who want to be coddled. He provides faith boosters anchored in the Biblical idea of audacious faith. To help us not sit on these faith boosters, he provides practical steps along the way to activate this audacious faith. This book is perfect for you if you are tired of living a normal/subpar faith life. Pastor Steven challenges you to rise up, believe for the best in your life and finally, see that belief turned into action. He recaps how to start transferring your audacious faith into deed. This book WILL stir you up. It has changed my life, and made me start working on some dreams. It earns my highest recommendation!

Christians today have put God in their own little boxes and have limited his influence in their lives. We are afraid to embrace the magnitude of his power or to be audacious in our faith. Steven Furtick challenges us to move beyond our little powerless lives into the destiny God has for us with unlimited potential. Reading this book, which I will read again, has ignited my faith and encouraged me to stretch my beliefs to embrace the impossible. To pray audacious prayers and approach God in boldness. We need more words like this in our world today.

nothing happens in the natural without making a declaration. this book really challenged me to step out and make audacious declarations. It's no harder for God to do the audacious thing than it is to do the easy things. The 12 declarations (with scripture references) are something that needs to be declared everyday. I was declaring "I have the wisdom of the Lord concerning every decision I make" multiple times everyday for over a week. The next week, my wife had 3 mini-strokes. i "just happened" to be home from work early, I "just happened" to recognize what was going on, I "just happened" to call 911 instead of letting her talk me out of it. In other words, I HAD THE WISDOM OF THE LORD CONCERNING EVERY DECISION I MADE and recognized that God had e there at the appointed time. i love divine appointments!! This book is a must read!!! Thanks Steve for sharing!!!

What an amazing book. As a new minister this was a great motivator to really listen to Gods calling and push forward regardless of the obstacles

Love this book~As Christians, sometimes we/I do not feel that I should be praying big, audacious

prayers for certain situations in my life. This book helped me to realize it is OK to pray BIG prayers! God wants to bless His children & hear the desires of our heart. Love this book and highly recommend!

Well known pastor and fellow Charlotte native Steven Furtick released his first book, Sun Stand Still, and it is truly challenging for the Christian believer that falls into a 'prayer rut'. Pastor Furtick shares many stories about the conception and growth of his church, Elevation, and how they relied on prayer to help them reach new heights. The book is written extremely well, and really throws a challenge out to the reader. Are your prayers simple ones such as 'God, thank you for this day, help my family get better, Amen'? If so, this book is for you. Offer up prayers to God that will make the Sun Stand Still, and know that God is capable of all things. The message that Furtick tries to convey is that God is capable of all things. Why don't we live like he is? I personally took a lot from this book, as it has helped me through some tough trials in my life. Just knowing that God is okay with us praying for ANYTHING left me with such a sense of freedom. As Furtick states in Chapter 9 "True faith is founded on what you believe about God and what He is capable." The key phrase used throughout this book is about having 'Audacious Faith'. Furtick contends that this is the only way that you can pray these big prayers to God. This book has definitely changed my life and my relationship with God for the better. I highly recommend it to any believer struggling with your faith.

Fabulous book. Gives renewed hope to the reader with Biblical clarity. Steven Furtick is a wonderful speaker as well!

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