

BIG WORDS IN THE BIBLE

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERIES | PASTOR ELY REYNOLDS | MAY 13, 2026

#14 = STIFFNECKED

Exodus 32:9; 33:3, 5; 34:9

DEFINITION

- It originated as an agricultural word, referring to oxen in an overly heavy yoke, which was hard to bear. A stiffnecked ox was one that was rebelling against and resisting the yoke.
- *Stiffnecked* = “_____”; obstinate; rebellious”
- A stiffnecked person is someone who stubbornly resists God’s direction or _____ in their life.
- A stiff neck comes from a hard _____. A stiff neck starts with a spirit of _____ in the heart.

STEPS TO A STIFF NECK

1. You become _____ to direction.

- a. Acts 7:51, “Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, **ye do always resist the Holy Ghost:** as your fathers did, so do ye.”
- b. What does the Holy Spirit do in our lives? He corrects us. He convicts us of sin. He points us to the Savior. He gives divine guidance. He leads us into truth and teaches us.
- c. When He corrects, do you listen or resist? When He guides you, do you listen or resist?

2. You stop _____ to the leading.

- a. You no longer respond at all to the pulling of the yoke. You form the habit of not responding.
- b. There is a great danger in continually saying “no” to the Holy Spirit. The danger is that you will eventually stop _____ His voice altogether because you have refused it so many times.
- c. Sometimes a hardening of the neck is a sign of judgment.

3. You openly _____ against God’s authority.

- a. You refuse to bend your will at all to God or any authority.
- b. Often times in Scripture, we see that God is trying to guide His people, but they pull the other direction. The clearest picture we see is in the life of _____.
- c. Deuteronomy 31:27, “For I know thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck...” (Moses speaking)
- d. 1 Samuel 15:23, “For rebellion is as the sin of withcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, He hath also rejected thee from being king.”

4. You eventually _____ your testimony and your life. (Proverbs 29:1)

HOW DO I AVOID BECOMING STIFFNECKED?

1. BE _____ IN.

- a. Samuel said, “Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth.”
- b. Humble yourself. Listen for His voice.

2. BE _____.

- a. If you do not want to be stiffnecked, you have to _____ and submit yourself to God.
- b. 2 Chronicles 30:8, “Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers were, but **yield yourselves** unto the LORD, and enter into His sanctuary...”

3. Be _____.

- a. Be open to instruction and correction from the Lord.
- b. Go beyond just being open; _____ the instruction and correction. Seek to learn.

*Have you seen some signs of being stiffnecked in your heart?
Are you tuned in to God’s voice or have you _____ Him out?
Are you willing to receive and desirous of God’s instruction in your life?*