

"Unshakable – Part 8"

Pastor Al Brice | Sunday, August 4, 2019

2 Timothy 4:1-5 AMP: I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ² preach the word [as an official messenger]; be ready when the time is right and even when it is not [keep your sense of urgency, whether the opportunity seems favorable or unfavorable, whether convenient or inconvenient, whether welcome or unwelcome]; correct [those who err in doctrine or behavior], warn [those who sin], exhort and encourage [those who are growing toward spiritual maturity], with inexhaustible patience and [faithful] teaching. ³ For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine and accurate instruction [that challenges them with God's truth]; but wanting to have their ears tickled [with something pleasing], they will accumulate for themselves [many] teachers [one after another, chosen] to satisfy their own desires and to support the errors they hold, ⁴ and will turn their ears away from the truth and will wander off into myths and man-made fictions [and will accept the unacceptable]. ⁵ But as for you, be clear-headed in every situation [stay calm and cool and steady], endure every hardship [without flinching], do the work of an evangelist, fulfill [the duties of] your ministry.

There are two types of deception: spiritual deception and self-deception.

1. The originator of spiritual deception is the devil.

Revelation 12:9 (NKJV Strong's): So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

2. Self-deception:

James 1:21-25 AMP: ²¹ So get rid of all uncleanness and all that remains of wickedness, and with a humble spirit receive the word [of God] which is implanted [actually rooted in your heart], which is able to save your souls. ²² But prove yourselves doers of the word [actively and continually obeying God's precepts], and not merely listeners [who hear the word but fail to internalize its meaning], deluding (deceiving) yourselves [by unsound reasoning contrary to the truth]. ²³ For if anyone only listens to the word without obeying it, he is like a man who looks very carefully at his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he immediately forgets what he looked like. ²⁵ But he who looks carefully into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and faithfully abides by it, not having become a [careless] listener who forgets but an active doer [who obeys], he will be blessed and favored by God in what he does [in his life of obedience].

We are seeing much of the same in Christianity, choosing and living life without any regard to God's will concerning holiness, righteousness, purity, love, unity, and His will, which is His written Word. The church has very little teaching on these very important doctrines and issues. It is more concentrated on the manifestation of outward blessings than inward change.

Romans 12:1-2 NKJV: ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

3. How do I renew my mind and keep it renewed to the will of God?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 AMPC: ¹⁶ Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose, and action), ¹⁷ So that the man of God may be complete and proficient, well fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 10:24-25 AMPC: ²⁴ And let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities, ²⁵ Not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together [as believers], as is the habit of some people, but admonishing (warning, urging, and encouraging) one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching.

4. What is God's will for my life as a Christian?

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 AMP: Finally, believers, we ask and admonish you in the Lord Jesus, that you follow the instruction that you received from us about how you ought to walk and please God (just as you are actually doing) and that you excel even more and more [pursuing a life of purpose and living in a way that expresses gratitude to God for your salvation]. 2 For you know what commandments and precepts we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. 3 For this is the will of God, that you be sanctified [separated and set apart from sin]: that you abstain and back away from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor [being available for God's purpose and separated from things profane], 5 not [to be used] in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God and are ignorant of His will; (see **1 Corinthians 6:18-20**) ⁶ and that [in this matter of sexual misconduct] no man shall transgress and defraud his brother because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we have told you before and solemnly warned you.

(In **Matthew 7:21-23 NKJV**, Jesus warns against the self-deception of merely making a verbal profession of lordship without obedience to the will of God (**James 1:22 NKJV**).)

It is even possible for a self-deluded person to exercise a spectacular ministry, using the authority of the Scriptures and of the name of Jesus, without walking in genuine, obedient discipleship.

'Lawlessness':

1 John 3:4 NKJV: A literal translation of this verse is: "Whosoever commits sin [on a continual basis] also commits [continuously] lawlessness [Greek '*anomian*'], and sin is the lawlessness."

How does a Christian get into sinful activities and lawlessness?

1. Bad influence: (**1 Corinthians 15:33-34**)
2. Yielding yourself to lustful passions, cravings, and desires.

See **James 1:13-17 NKJV:** First of all, temptation is not sin!! Every sinful act is rooted in the thought that produced it. That is why our Heavenly Father instructed us to take every thought captive and cast it out. Because if we don't, we become captives to the thoughts which in turn become actions that produce behavior (**Romans 6:13-18 NKJV; 1 Corinthians 9:26-27 NKJV**).

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 AMP (Continued): ⁷ For God has not called us to impurity, but to holiness [to be dedicated, and set apart by behavior that pleases Him, whether in public or in private]. ⁸ So whoever rejects and disregards this is not [merely] rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you [to dwell in you and empower you to overcome temptation].

Titus 2:11-14 NKJV: ¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.