

**Unshakable Series – Part Two**  
**Unshakeable in Adversity**  
 This is who we are under pressure  
 Pastor Brian Coles

Good morning, we are in our second week of our unshakable series. We are using the letter of second Timothy as we look together to God's word to discover how we can have an unshakable faith in the midst of the turbulent times we live in.

If you are just joining us, I highly recommend you tune into last week's message from Pastor Lester

(Give credit to William Barclay's Commentary)

Valentine's day

To remind you, the second letter to Timothy was written by the Apostle Paul while Paul was in prison. We have strong reason to believe that this is Paul's last letter that he wrote before he was killed. And he is writing to Timothy, his son in the faith, the young timid pastor in the church at Ephesus - crazy commerce town.

Timothy is young, he's timid, he has a weak stomach. And Paul knows this. There is no doubt that Timothy is under incredible pressure from many directions.

He reminds Timothy of his sincere faith and the spirit of God that lives inside of him that doesn't make him timid but strong, powerful, and self-disciplined.

He reminds him that he has been entrusted with the message of the gospel and it's now his time to walk in this holy calling.

**2 Timothy 2:1-2**

**1 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.**

He's saying four things here:

**1. When Adversity comes, the Christian must be grounded in their identity and purpose.**

- You then my son, Paul isn't explicitly saying this, but we are hearing it in his wording. He set a model for us for the type of relationship he has with Timothy. Father son, mentor relationship, whatever wording you're comfortable with there is a closeness. We are designed to be relational with one another.
- Be strong in God's Grace, be fully devoted to Christ, work in him, rest in him, stay connected to him. - We are designed to be relational with God.
- Entrust, or pass on perfectly the message of the gospel. This is the second time he uses this phrase. We are responsible to deliver the gospel to the next generation.

**Deuteronomy 6:4-7**

**4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.**

- To reliable and qualified teachers  
We must become and follow people who are more concerned with content and character than charisma and catchiness.

These teachers are to be faithful men. The Greek for faithful, pistos (**Greek #4103**), is a word with a rich variety of closely connected meanings. A man who is a pistos (**Greek #4103**) is a man who is believing, a man who is loyal, a man who is reliable. All these meanings are there. Falconer said that these believing men are such "that they will yield neither to persecution nor to error." The teacher's heart must be so stayed on Christ that no threat of danger will lure him from the path of loyalty and no seduction of false teaching cause him to stray from the straight path of the truth. He must be steadfast alike in life and in thought.

Three-word pictures: soldier, athlete, farmer. He uses the same three pictures close together in 1 Corinthians 9:6-7; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.

**2 Timothy 2:3-4**

**3 Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.**

Join with me in suffering. This is the second time he uses this phrase. Timothy's suffering was different than Paul's, but it was still hard.

**2. When adversity comes, the Christians must prioritize trust in God's faithfulness, and obedience to Christ above all else.**

How many of the most amazing stories in scripture would cease to exist if the people involved had wavered in their obedience?

(i) The soldier is conditioned to obedience. The early training of a soldier is designed to make him unquestioningly obey the word of command. There may come a time when such instinctive obedience will save his life and the lives of others. There is a sense in which it is no part of the soldier's duty "to know the reason why." Involved as he is in the midst of the battle, he cannot see the overall picture. The decisions he must leave to the commander who sees the whole field. The first Christian duty is obedience to the voice of God, and acceptance even of that which he cannot understand.

You don't need to know why.

**2 Timothy 2:5-7**

**5 Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules. 6 The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. 7 Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.**

(i) The professional athlete is a man under discipline and self-denial.

- (ii) The athlete is a man who observes the rules. Trusts the process.  
 (iii) Often the husbandman must be content, first, to work, and, then, to wait. More than any other workman, he has to learn that there are no such things as quick results.

One thing remains in all three pictures. The soldier is upheld by the thought of final victory. The athlete is upheld by the vision of the crown. The husbandman is upheld by the hope of the harvest. Each submits to the discipline and the toil for the sake of the glory which shall be. It is so with the Christian.

**3. When Adversity Comes, the Christians must hold to vision, calling, and the promises of God.**

**2 Timothy 2:5-8-9**

**8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, 9 for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.**

The message is always greater than the man.

**4. When adversity comes, the Christian must know that God's word never fails.**

**2 Timothy 2:5-8-10-13**

**10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.**

**11 Here is a trustworthy saying:**

**If we died with him,**

**we will also live with him;**

**12**

**if we endure,**

**we will also reign with him.**

**If we disown him,**

**he will also disown us;**

**13**

**if we are faithless,**

**he remains faithful,**

**for he cannot disown himself.**

**"So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32-33 RSV).**

Worship team

We hope to see you next week as Pastor Brian Flewelling unpacks part three of our Unshakable Series.