

## Unshakable in God's Word

### Unshakable Series – Part 5

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3.3.19 by Brian Flewelling

#### Intro

The Bible uses an analogy. It says that if people, like a tree, put their tap root down into the word, they'll be so well nourished their leaf never withers (it's winter outside, but you're in full bloom).

**Word of God** is literally the 66 books. It is more liberally, the truths that God communicates about himself and about humanity through his divine revelations. Jesus is called the Word.

The truths about God aren't just historical. Paul says these truths still carry the living breath of God.

The truths contained in this book still have the power to shake nations. When England and Scotland translated the Bible into the people's common language their entire society changed. When William Wilberforce took God's word into parliament, English law changed, and slavery was abolished halfway around the world. When I take the truths of this book into my marriage and apply it, my marriage changes.

When our business leaders take the truths of this book into their business (about ethics, integrity, financial responsibility, diligence service, and servant leadership)—their people change, their product changes, and the marketplace changes. When a nation abandons the truths in this book, like ours has done, there are very real consequences. Our leaf withers. We decay morally. 2 Timothy 3:1-4...we become lovers of ourselves, of money, brutal, proud, and abusive.

#### 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

V.14 "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,"

"have become convinced of...you know those from whom you learned it..."

Timothy had to walk through a process of working out his conviction..., and part of that process is discerning the credibility of the witnesses. (Our young adults, our new believers).

Ever since the first eye witnesses of Jesus, we have all inherited these truths from other sources. How reliable are those sources? That's a legitimate question. We have to be able to give people evidence, but we also have to give people permission to dig deep and to wrestle with it for themselves.

**1. Faith is reinforced by investigation.** Because if it's actually true, there will be evidence that stands up to scrutiny. The evidence from scholarship is growing stronger every year. The scriptures are historically reliable, the authors are credible, that text wasn't tampered with, the texts were meticulously copied, that their claims of revelation are internally consistent.

God is not scared of your honest searching.

My caution here is that the secular world and secular scholarship come to the Bible with a prejudice. No God. No miracles. Fairy Tales. That's called bad scholarship. That's creating a thesis out of prejudice and not drawing conclusions out of factual analysis. Be careful who you listen to.

With care, investigation into the scriptures will make your faith stronger.

If we don't come to conviction [that I can trust that this Bible represents God's will and authority to govern mankind] then I won't allow the Bible to lead me to the Life Giver – and I won't encounter Him for myself. At Petra we take God's word very seriously. It is the highest authority in a believer's life. Hopefully that's not just a theology. Hopefully that's a daily practice.

**V.15 “And how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”**

- From Genesis -Malachi; the prophet Abel to the prophet Zechariah...
- Paul sums up the usefulness of the scriptures. The Law and the Prophets lead us to Jesus.
- They are leading you, like the Appalachian trail blazes...to salvation in Jesus Christ.

**2. The goal of the Word is to lead us to encounters with Jesus.**

- The written Word reveals the Living Word.
- The Bible reveals the person. We don't worship the Bible we worship the person.

**Old Testament**

- It's become popular in recent decades to criticize the Old Testament, and to misunderstand God in the Old Testament as grumpy, vengeful, and unforgiving.
- God exists outside of time and space. He doesn't change.
- What you see in Jesus is the same compassionate creator we have in Genesis 1.
- Our misunderstanding about the Old Testament laws and stories really shows our modern ignorance about the ancient middle eastern cultures, and how brutal and lost they were, how far down God had to go to reveal himself.
- Moments disciplining my children. Moments giving them one step.
- Read the whole Bible. Don't be intimidated by stuff you don't understand. That's part of the learning process. Dig it up. Seek God through it. There's a wonderful mystery of God in this, He doesn't reveal himself all at once. We have to pursue him.
- Ill: When I lived in Israel the land was vast and wild and rugged and dangerous and beautiful.

- 2 Simple questions: “God, what do you want me to learn about you through this? How should my life change because of that?”

V.16 “All Scripture is God-breathed... The Scriptures aren’t just a historical document. There is a living voice inside of them. It is the Voice of the author, the Almighty God himself.

- Many people are surprised by how the Word isn’t just literature you analyze. It carries the Breath of God.
- The Word is actively shaping our lives.

V.16 “...and is useful”

**3. The Bible is useful!** It’s useful!! So practical. You can take it from your living room into your staff room. Use it on Fridays and in your friendships. It’s not just information to collect and set on a shelf. It’s useful.

- The Geeks among us...
- Father figure in *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*...the Greek word for Grace is Charis
- Examples: Be slow to speak, quick to listen; take a little tonic for your stomach; don’t forget about the widows when you distribute food...

V.16-17 “...is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

“Thoroughly equipped” – furnish perfectly, to finish the job

So, the Scriptures don’t JUST lead us to Jesus Christ, they finish the job of shaping our character in Jesus Christ.

- “Teaching” – verbal instruction
- “Training” – workshop
- “Correcting” – simple adjustments...like a guitar tuner.
- “Rebuking” – [compound medical term] restoration to an upright posture; The Work of God helps us to stand up straight in character.

**7 analogies to describe how the Bible impacts our life.**

**The Useful Word of God.**

**1. The Word of God is Bread You Eat (Matthew 4:4)**

It nourishes you. It helps your spiritual metabolism. Feed on it. Chew on it.

**2. The Word of God is Light in the Darkness (Psalm 119:105)**

It illuminates things we would have tripped over before. Makes us wiser.

**3. The Word of God is a Foundation. (Matthew 7:24-27)**

Build your whole house in alignment with that immovably solid surface.

**4. The Word of God is a Sword (Hebrews 4:12)**

It cuts away falsehood. Use it to slash the lies of the enemy.

**5. The Word of God is a Hammer and a Fire (Jeremiah 23:8-9)**

The truth of it smashes evil. Use it in your prayers. It is powerful.

**6. The Word of God is Like Water (Ephesians 5:26)**

Cleanses and washes away the filth of the world. Begin and end your day by taking a bath in His Word.

**7. The Word of God is Seed that Grows (I Peter 1:23)**

Cultivate it, and let it generate new things in your life.

The Apostle Paul takes a deep breath.

Now that we've established how important the scriptures are...

**2 Timothy 4:1**

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

- Paul is solemnizing his charge. Before witnesses...
- Get this right Timothy! Everything depends on it.

**4:2 "Preach the Word" (to the whole community)**

- Make it your public declaration (everything about you is shouting)
- Doesn't say, "preach the Holy Scriptures (v.15)"
- Preach the Logos – same Word in John 1:1 to describe Jesus Christ that holds all things together.
- We are a people who declare the presence of the Living Word. Not just a text, but the prophetic voice of Jesus Christ to a broken world.

**4. What does Jesus want to say to this situation?** What does Jesus want to say to this person? To Poverty?

**4:3-4a "For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths."**

- Entire Christian denominations have walked away from God's Word; from the cross of Jesus, and the life of Jesus.

**Keep Your Head;** 2 Peter Be sober minded.

- Something is shifting in our nation, county, church
- Weightiness

**Final Days: Deception & Violence**

**God has given us a lamp that will not fail. It is the Holy Scriptures that lead us into the Living Prophetic reality of Jesus--The True and Living God.**

**Communal Reading of Scripture:**

**Isaiah 40:3-8**

A voice of one calling:

"In the desert prepare  
the way for the LORD;  
make straight in the wilderness  
a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be raised up,  
every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level,  
the rugged places a plain.

And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,  
and all mankind together will see it.  
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out."  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All men are like grass,  
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.  
The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.  
Surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of our God stands forever."