

Unshakable Series - Part One
UNSHAKEABLE IN FAITH

2 Timothy 1:1-14

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Today we begin a **6-part message series on the book of 2 Timothy**. We have entitled this series **“Unshakable”**, which is also our theme for the year.

We will be exploring this letter the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy and discover how to live Unshakable Lives in the 21st century.

I believe this is going to be a powerful, encouraging and faith building series for each one of us. It is a great topic and study in the midst of the unsettling times we live in.

God desires that his children not be overcome with fear and anxiety as the world shakes around us and as we deal with adversity in our own lives.

We believers have a firm foundation to stand on. Jesus is our solid rock. In Him we can stand firm and secure, living our lives with unshakable confidence.

During the writing of this second letter to Timothy, Paul was sitting in prison awaiting his execution.

- These are Paul’s last words to the church before he was martyred.

In this letter, Paul is encouraging Timothy and all followers of Jesus to stand strong and be faithful. Paul was about to finish his race and was passing the mantle to the next generation of leadership.

- **This is not a depressing letter but one of great courage and faith.**

For this morning’s message I decided to just go verse by verse and dig out the great truths that will help us stand strong like Paul and Timothy.

2 Timothy 1: 1-14

Vs. 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

Even though Paul was sitting in prison he understood that he was walking in his calling and the will of God. Problems don't necessarily mean you are not in God's will.

1. Being in God's will doesn't mean you won't have problems, but it means God will give you his strength to walk through them.

The thing that kept Paul strong in his faith was his relationship with God and the promise of eternal life in Jesus. Jesus gives us life now and forever with him.

John 10:10 ... I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

Outside of Christ there is a big emptiness in the human soul. I am reminded of the kid's song that says; "*Life without Jesus life is like a donut – with a hole in the middle of our heart*". – Jesus brings meaning to our life.

Vs. 2 To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul refers to Timothy as his son because Paul was a spiritual father to him. Paul mentored him for a number of years, took him with him on some of his missionary journeys, and then set him in as a young pastor in the church at Ephesus.

In his letters, Paul often reflects on God's grace, mercy and peace. None of us would be here this morning if it wasn't for God's grace and mercy in our lives. And we wouldn't be able to live with unshakable faith if it wasn't for his peace that keeps our hearts and minds.

Vs.3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.

Paul worked hard at keeping a clear conscience before God and people. He understood that a guilty conscience saps your spiritual strength and undermines your faith.

Things such as pornography, unforgiveness, offenses you caused, illegal actions, are like a cancer to your soul. It slowly eats away at your confidence and faith.

2. We need a clear conscience if we are going to be unshakable and pray faith filled prayers that move mountains.

I remember writing a letter to someone I had offended. God would keep reminding me of this person in my quiet times with Him. A lingering guilt. I knew God had forgiven me, but my conscience was not clear until I asked this person for forgiveness. Once I did, my conscience was clear, and I had a new freedom in my spirit.

There is also encouragement in this verse for those who feel they have no ministry anymore. Elderly, etc. - **You can have a powerful ministry of prayer** and writing notes of encouragement - Paul made this his ministry while in prison.

Vs.4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.

Paul was lonely and feeling abandoned in prison. He longed to see Timothy.

Like Paul, our relationships with our brothers and sisters in our church family bring strength and joy into our lives. They help us live unshakable lives.

God never intended for any one of us to try and do life on our own. It's one of the reasons we really encourage small groups. I love seeing a small group rally around someone going through a rough time. That's the way God designed his church to work. Not the pastors doing all the care but each member caring for each other.

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Vs.5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

Paul is reminding Timothy of his spiritual heritage. We can draw on the faith and strength of those who have gone before us. Don't despise your heritage.

3. The greatest blessing you can pass on to your children is not a material inheritance but a faith inheritance.

A life of faith that they catch from watching you. A spiritual inheritance is powerful. The greatest preparation for college and life is not a scholarship but a well-grounded faith. An unshakable faith they can reason with as they face the atheist professors and secular worldviews that are anti God.

Vs.6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

Vs.7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

I believe Paul is referring to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit for which he would lay his hands on people to receive. Paul is saying **it isn't enough to just receive it and say you are a spirit-filled Christian.**

You have to keep fanning the flame. Like a woodstove or coal stove you need to keep tending it. Keep adding fuel to the fire. Keep stirring up the embers.

<p>4. The Spirit of God in us makes us courageous and enables us to walk in his power, love like he does, and overcome those undisciplined areas in our lives, but we have to keep fanning the flame.</p>
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I had people lay hands on me to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit when I was in my 20's. But I soon learned that even though it was a supernatural impartation, it required ongoing self-discipline and effort to keep it alive and fresh in my life. It was a deposit and now I needed to keep fanning the flame.

One way you can fan the flame is by doing something new and fresh in your walk with God. Step out of your comfort zone. Sharing your faith will fan your flame. Do that thing God has been speaking to you about but you have been putting off.

And of course, we fan the flame as we pray, worship and soak in God's word.

Vs.8 So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.

I find this interesting. After all the years Timothy spend traveling with Paul as a missionary, he evidently still struggled with feeling intimidated in sharing his faith with people.

I think many of us can relate to Timothy. We may have good intentions, maybe we even went to WYAM or on a short-term mission trip but when we come home, we find it hard to share our faith with our neighbors or co-workers.

I know this is a struggle for many of us. We would rather just be quiet and fade into the background. Let me tell you a sad story that has had a spiritual impact on many of us to this day.

After the Protestant Reformation when Martin Luther broke away from the Catholic church there was another group that felt he didn't go far enough in his reforms, especially with infant baptism. This group became known as the **Anabaptists**. They got that name because it meant re-baptizers. They would rebaptize adults who were baptized as infants. ... **They were a very zealous group, filled with the Spirit and were strong on evangelism.** They would witness to everyone with a holy boldness and thousands and thousands came to Christ. Because of their zeal for evangelism and for the purity of the gospel they were severely persecuted, and many were martyred for their faith. Some had their tongues cut off in order to stop them from witnessing. **At a certain point they became weary of persecution and made agreements with authorities to stop witnessing and stay to themselves if they were allowed to live in peace.** They became known as the *"quiet in the land"*. The passive people who kept to themselves.

It was a sad day when they compromised their anointing and calling and made these agreements to stop evangelizing. The evangelistic fire went out and the resulting generations have struggled to recapture the evangelistic zeal and anointing. Many of us come from this anabaptist root and also struggle to share our faith. ... This is a generational bondage we need to overcome....

God is moving in a fresh way today to release his church from these bondages. He is bringing back the fire and helping us speak up for our faith and values and to **not be ashamed of Jesus or afraid of suffering** for him.

I want to invite you to join with me in making a declaration. No matter what your heritage is let's make this bold declaration together.

DECLARATION- BREAKING FREE OF THE CURSE OF THE PAST

- Father forgive us for being ashamed to speak up, for being afraid and unwilling to suffer and choosing a false peace instead.

5. We will no longer be the quiet in the land. We will no longer put peace and comfort above our calling to share the good news of Jesus with those around us. We will speak for truth even if it causes a backlash and persecution. IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN

Vs.9 He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

Vs.10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Jesus saves us and called us – We are saved from something and called into something. Out of darkness into the light. Out of sin into holiness.

6. We are called to live a holy life. A life that reflects Jesus to our family, friends, neighbors and co-workers.

It's a bit scary to realize that for some people their only concept of Jesus and Christianity is based on what they see in your life. They don't read the bible or go to church but know you call yourself a follower of Jesus.

Paul reminds us that God chose us not based on our heritage or good works but based on his grace alone. This is the message of the gospel.

11 And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.

12 That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

13 What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

Paul mentions guarding and keeping the deposit of teachings he gave Timothy.

7. To have unshakable faith we need to hold on to sound teaching.

Paul tells Timothy to weigh all teachings with what he taught him. Back then as well as today there was a lot of fringe teaching going around that was faulty. The Bible is our standard by which we test all things.

If the enemy can deceive us or get us to doubt the scriptures our foundations are weakened, and we are no longer unshakable.

In Christ we can live with Unshakable Faith and Courage.

Next week Pastor Brian Coles is going to take us further in this study and talk about being Unshakable in Adversity and the pressures of life.

Closing Song: On Christ the Solid Rock