



## INFUSION

### Building Unshakable Faith Unstable Times Pt 4

**SERIES IDEA:** Faith grows when we stay connected to God in prayer. In times of crisis, doubt and fear can creep in, but prayer keeps our hearts aligned with God's truth.

*Faith is often tested in times of crisis, but God calls us to stand firm and trust Him. This five-week Bible study explores how to build unshakable faith by prayer, relying on God's promises, deepening our trust in Him, and applying biblical principles during life's toughest moments.*

- **Building Unshakable Faith for Times of Unstable Times with Prayer that Strengthens Faith - *Matthew 26:36-46***
- **Building Unshakable Faith for Unstable Times Begins with Obedience to the Word that Strengthen Faith - *Matthew 7:24-27***

### How Not to be Fooled in Unstable Times

**Main Idea:** Follow God's Word as your road map for living, then you will overcome the evils of our time

***Matthew 7:13-23 (ESV)** "Judge not, that you be not judged. <sup>2</sup> For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup> Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. <sup>6</sup> "Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you... <sup>13</sup> Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. <sup>15</sup> "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. <sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' <sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'*

*Jesus concludes the sermon on the mount by giving his disciples, the crowd, and the religious leaders for basic warnings: they must choose between two roads and two gates, two kinds of prophets, and two kinds of disciples. They are either with Jesus or against him.*

## 1. Judging Yourself versus Judging Others – *Matthew 7:1-6*

- a. **MAIN IDEA:** Jesus warns against hypocritical judgement and encourages self-examination before critiquing others. We must use discernment.
- DEFINITION:** What does it mean to judge? [Biblehub.org](https://www.biblehub.org) “Strong's 2919: Properly, to distinguish, i.e. Decide; by implication, to try, condemn, punish.”
  - Notice the Caution of Judging Others v.1 (NLT) “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged.”
    - PRINCIPLE:** *Jesus who think the way to make one's self more righteous is to be more judgmental of others.*
  - Notice the Consequence of Judging Others v.2 (NLT) “For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.”
    - PRINCIPLE:** *Your attitude in judging others will determine how you are judged in return.*
      - Luke 6:37** “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven.”
      - Romans 2:1-4**
      - James 4:11-12**
      - Romans 14:10-13**
      - James 2:13**
  - Notice the Correction of Judging Others v.3-5
    - PRINCIPLE:** *Judge yourself before you give judgment to others*
  - Notice the Clarity of Judging Others v.6 “Don't waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don't throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.”
    - PRINCIPLE:** *Jesus emphasizes discernment in sharing sacred truths, recognizing that not all are receptive.*
- b. **APPLICATION:**
- Regular self-reflection and humility can prevent a judgmental spirit. Before offering correction, assess your own shortcomings.
- c. **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**
- Question #1:** What kind of judgment is Jesus warning against in verses 1-2?
  - Question #2:** Why is it important to remove the “plank” from our own eye before addressing the “speck” in someone else's?
  - Question #3:** What does verse 6 mean by “don't give dogs what is sacred”?





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### Building Unshakable Faith Unstable Times Pt 4

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2. **The Narrow and Wide Gates - Matthew 7:13-14 (ESV)** *“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few... (NLT) “You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. <sup>14</sup> But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.”*
  - a. **MAIN IDEA:** The path to life is narrow and requires deliberate choice, while the path to destruction is broad and easily followed.
    - i. **2 Paths**
      1. The Wide Path is
        - a. **Easy**
        - b. **Many Follow It**
      2. The Narrow Path is
        - a. **Hard**
        - b. **Few Find It**
    - ii. **2 Gates**
      1. The Wide Gate Leads to Destruction
        - a. **QUOTE: Pastor Robert** *“He understood and taught that not all ways and not all destinations are equally good. One leads to destruction, the other to life.”*
      2. The Narrow Gate Leads to Life
        - a. **QUOTE: Pastor Robert** *“Christ invites us to follow the difficult but life-giving road of discipleship—dying to self, living in Him.”*
  - b. **APPLICATION:**
    - i. Evaluate daily choices to ensure they align with Christ’s teachings, even when they counter popular trends.
  - c. **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**
    - i. **Question #1:** What makes the narrow gate difficult and the wide gate appealing?
    - ii. **Question #2:** How does our culture often encourage the “wide road”?
    - iii. **Question #3:** What daily practices help us stay on the narrow path?



## INFUSION

### Building Unshakable Faith Unstable Times Pt 5

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- **Building Unshakable Faith for Times of Unstable Times with Prayer that Strengthens Faith - *Matthew 26:36-46***
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#### How Not to be Fooled in Unstable Times

**Main Idea:** Follow God's Word as your road map for living, then you will overcome the evils of our time

- **Judging Yourself verses Judging Others – *Matthew 7:1-6***
  - **MAIN IDEA:** Jesus warns against hypocritical judgement and encourages self-examination before critiquing others. We must use discernment.
- **The Narrow and Wide Gates - *Matthew 7:13-14***
  - **MAIN IDEA:** The way of life in Christ is narrow and countercultural, requiring deliberate choice.
- 3. **True and False Prophets - *Matthew 7:13-23 (ESV)* "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus you will recognize them by their fruits."**
  - a. **MAIN IDEA:** Beware of false teachers; their true nature is revealed by their actions and the outcomes they produce.
    - i. **Warning About False Prophets v.15 "Beware of false prophets..."**
      - 1. **PRINCIPLE:** Jesus wants us to be aware that false prophets are here to deceive you.
    - ii. **Warning Signs of False Prophets v.15 "... who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves."**
      - 1. **PRINCIPLE:** False teachers are known by the fruit of their lives, not their appearance.
      - 2. False Prophets are Fake v.15 "... who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves."

a. **PRINCIPLE:** *False prophets are never what they appear to be. They present themselves as something they are not.*

3. False Prophets have Fruit v.16

a. **PRINCIPLE:** *We guard ourselves against false prophets by taking heed to their fruits.*

i. Pay Attention to the **MANNER OF LIVING** a teacher shows.

1. **Principle:** *Do they show righteousness, humility and faithfulness in the way they live?*

ii. Pay Attention to the **CONTENT** of their teaching.

1. **Principle:** *Is it true fruit from God's Word, or is it man-centered, appealing to ears that want to be tickled?*

iii. Pay Attention to the **EFFECT** of their teaching.

1. **Principle:** *Are people growing in Jesus or merely being entertained, and eventually falling away?*

4. **False Prophets will be Judged by Fire**

a. **PRINCIPLE:** *Because their fruit is bad, God will destroy bad fruit*

b. **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

i. **Question #1:** Why is it sometimes hard to recognize false prophets at first?

ii. **Question #2:** What does "fruit" refer to in this passage?

iii. **Question #3:** What kind of "fruit" should we look for in a leader's life?

iv. **Question #4:** How can we guard ourselves and our communities from false teaching?

v. **Question #5:** How can believers cultivate discernment?

c. **APPLICATION:** Discern teachings and leaders by observing their conduct and the fruits of their ministry.





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**SERIES IDEA:** Faith grows when we stay connected to God in prayer. In times of crisis, doubt and fear can creep in, but prayer keeps our hearts aligned with God's truth.

**Matthew 7:21-23** *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' <sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'*

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### How Not to be Fooled in Unstable Times Pt4

**Main Idea:** Follow God's Word as your road map for living, then you will overcome the evils of our time

- **Judging Yourself verses Judging Others – *Matthew 7:1-6***
    - **MAIN IDEA:** Jesus warns against hypocritical judgement and encourages self-examination before critiquing others. We must use discernment.
  - **The Narrow and Wide Gates - *Matthew 7:13-14***
    - **MAIN IDEA:** The way of life in Christ is narrow and countercultural, requiring deliberate choice.
4. **True and False Disciples - *Matthew 7:21-23*** *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' <sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"*
- MAIN IDEA:** Not all who profess Jesus as Lord will enter the kingdom; obedience to God's will is essential
    - False Disciples Deliver Empty Words from the Heart v.21 *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."*
      - PRINCIPLE:** Mere confession without submission is empty. Obedience is the fruit of salvation, not its cause.
        - 1 John 2:3-6; Luke 6:46; James 1:22**

- ii. False Disciples are Deceived by Exciting Wonders v.22 *“On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’”*

1. **PRINCIPLE:** *Doing things for the Lord does not mean you know the Lord. Knowing about Jesus and serving Jesus is not the same as knowing Him.*

a. **They Performed Wonderful Things for the People**

i. **QUOTE: Pastor Robert:** *You can do nice things to bless others, but if you do not have a relationship with Jesus, then it will mean nothing to the Lord.*

ii. **1 Corinthians 13:1-3; 2 Corinthians 11:11-15**

b. **They Performed Wonderful Things in the Name of the Lord**

i. **QUOTE: Pastor Robert** *“You can do good spiritual; things for the Lord and in the name of the Lord, but the Lord does not know who you are.*

ii. **Matthew 24:23-24; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12; 1 John 4:1-6;**

- iii. False Disciple are Doomed to Endless/Eternal Wrath v.23 *“And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”*

1. **PRINCIPLE:** *Only those in union with Christ will be welcomed into His kingdom.*

a. **Hear the Terrible Words of Christ...**

i. A Word of Rejection *“... I never knew you...”*

ii. A Word of Separation *“... depart from me...”*

iii. A Word of Condemnation *“... you workers of lawlessness.”*

1. **1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Matthew 25:31-46**

b. **DISCUSSION QUESTION:**

i. **Q1:** Why will some people who did impressive works in Jesus’ name be turned away?

ii. **Q2:** What is the danger of substituting performance for obedience?

iii. **Q3:** How can we be assured we are known by Christ?

c. **APPLICATION:** Align professed beliefs with actions, ensuring that faith is demonstrated through obedience.

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