



## 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.
  - i. **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.”
  - ii. Notice the Caution of Judging Others v.1 (NLT) “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged.”
    1. **PRINCIPLE:** *Jesus who think the way to make one's self more righteous is to be more judgmental of others.*
  - iii. 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.”
    1. **PRINCIPLE:** *Your attitude in judging others will determine how you are judged in return.*
      - a. **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.”
      - b. **Romans 2:1-4**
      - c. **James 4:11-12**
      - d. **Romans 14:10-13**
      - e. **James 2:13**
  - iv. Notice the Correction of Judging Others v.3-5
    1. **PRINCIPLE:** *Judge yourself before you give judgment to others*
  - v. 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.”
    1. **PRINCIPLE:** *Jesus emphasizes discernment in sharing sacred truths, recognizing that not all are receptive.*
- b. **APPLICATION:**
  - i. Regular self-reflection and humility can prevent a judgmental spirit. Before offering correction, assess your own shortcomings.
- c. **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**
  - i. **Question #1:** What kind of judgment is Jesus warning against in verses 1-2?
  - ii. **Question #2:** Why is it important to remove the “plank” from our own eye before addressing the “speck” in someone else's?
  - iii. **Question #3:** What does verse 6 mean by “don't give dogs what is sacred”?





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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.

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. **APLLICATION:**
- 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?

