

HANDOUT: PART 4 Unshakable Faith “Obedience to God’s Commandment Brings Lasting Blessings!”

Read Isaiah 40:31 The Hebrew Root for Wait is [KA-WAH’] meaning to “*Hope with Eager Expectation.*”

- *And Waiting with Expectation (Being Patient) Is the “Very Essence” of a Person’s Faith...Waiting is NOT a Passive Attitude...Rather it is an ACTION VERB!*

A KEY ELEMENT OF UNSHAKABLE FAITH IS PATIENCE...Waiting On the Lord! We’ve Seen that Joseph was *Very Patient for God’s Promise to be Revealed!* He Remembered God’s Prophetic Dream Revealing that he Will Rise to Power. After 13 Years Later...GODS PROMISE WAS FINALLY REVEALED!

- The KEY for Our Blessings...**“Obedience to God’s Commandment Brings Lasting Blessings!”**

We Will Ultimately Reap What We Sow. Even Though Our life may be Filled with Various Hardships...God Promises Us that He Will Always Be There to Support Us and to Bless Us for Our Obedience!

- **READ JAMES 1:17** *Our Christian Walk May Lead Us to an Inconvenient Life. BUT...We Must Remember that NOT Obeying God Will Lead to Even Greater Inconvenience and Sad Situations.*
- When You Choose Gods Way, Your Life Will Have True Meaning and Direction, that You’ll Never Receive by Going Along with the Flow of Sin’s Influences.

As We have Seen...The Unshakable Faith of Joseph Was NOT an “Intellectual Faith” that Only Remained in His Mind. Joseph habitually *demonstrated* Acts of Faith that Served as an Evidence of his Faith.

- **KEY: Obedience to God is Proof of Your Faith. Disobedience is a Proof of Disbelief.**
- When Your Faith is Tested and Proven to be Genuine, You are Placing Yourself Under the Protection and Blessings of God.
- We Must Not Forget that Following God will Result to Blessings that We Will Enjoy NOT Just During This Life...But Also During the Life to Come. **READ PSALM 91:1-4:**

God will Not Bless Us Because “We Think” We are Righteous “Of Our Own Ability” and Therefore Entitled of His Blessings. As We Obediently Follow God Staying Under His Wings...Not Going Our Way, Rather Make Him Our Refuge and Our Fortress...He blesses Us With His Love and Mercy.

Joseph Gives Us the Recipe of How God Works In The Grand Scheme of Things.

- Psalms 84:11 says, “*God knows every detail of our lives. He is our Father and like an earthly father, “No good thing will He Withhold from Those who Walk Uprightly”.*”
- The lessons from Joseph’s life are POWERFUL. *However...We need to Remember that these Lessons will be Useless if We Don’t Put Them Into Practice!*

GENESIS 45:5,8 *Joseph says to his brothers, “And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ⁸ “So then, it was not you who sent me here...BUT GOD.”*

- Joseph Understood that in the Course of Our Lives...IT IS GOD ALONE WHO IS SOVEREIGN!
- *No Matter what Man Does...It Is God Alone that Directs the Events and the Outcomes of our Lives!*

HOW DO YOU VIEW THIS TRUTH THIS MORNING? IT IS EASY TO SAY IT...BUT TO PRACTICE TRUSTING GOD WITH UNSHAKABLE FAITH IN THE MIDST OF TRIALS CAN BE SOMETHING ELSE!

READ PSALM 103:15-19: In Vs 19 He Begins this Call with a Declaration of God’s Sovereignty. For it is God’s sovereignty that gives Him the absolute freedom to do what He does in His blessings and showing compassion to frail and temporal humanity

Have you ever thought about How the Physical Heavens literally Rule over the Earth? They can ruin us or bless us. Warm us or cool us. Burn us or freeze us. Make our crops productive or destroy them. We have learned that climate and atmospheric conditions affect not only our health, but psychological behavior.

- *The Heavens are the Creation of God and they Illustrate God’s Sovereign Majesty Over Our Lives.*

One of Our Problems Today is that *We Have Lost the Biblical Perspective of the Majestic Greatness of God, and We Have a Completely Wrong Focus on God.* As J. B. Phillips points out in his book, *Your God Is Too Small...* People today see God as either the Resident Policeman...The Grand Old Man, Parental Hangover, OR Some Other “Short-Sighted, Twisted View of God.

- The Sovereignty of God May be Defined as the *“Exercise of His Supremacy, His Infinite Rule, His Authority and Unmatchable Power Over Everything”!*
- The Triune God Is Elevated Above the Highest Creature in Authority, Nature, and Being, He is the Most-High Lord of heaven and earth and all of Creation! *God’s Sovereignty Means that He is the Supreme Ruler who Immanently and Personally Rules Over All the Affairs of the Universe...And this Includes Our Personal Lives Both as Individuals and as a Local Body of Believers.*

We Need to Grasp This Truth...*God’s Sovereignty is a Place of Rest for the Child of God, As Well As a Cause of Worship.* *When You Grasp this Truth...You Will Stand Firm in Every Situation and Trial that Comes Your Way with... “Unshakable Faith”!*

I’ve said, there are over 7000 Promises from God to YOU! Here are a Few of My Favorites:

Isaiah 41:10; John 16:33; Psalm 37: 23, 24; Matthew 11: 28, 29; Exodus 14:14; Psalm 34:17; Romans 8:28

Difficulties and Trials Bombard Us Constantly. Everything, from the Normal Stresses of Daily Life to the Grief of Loss, threatens to Shake Our Faith, Leaving Us and Our Families Resembling a Pile of Rubble.

- ***But an Unshakable Faith will Keep Us Standing Firm Through All Life’s Storms.***

We See The Apostle Peter’s Faith Being Transformed from Shaky...To Unshakable!

We saw Peter Deny Knowing Jesus because of Fear...To Standing Firm No Matter What Men Would Do To Him...Being Thankful for the Opportunity to Suffer as did Jesus Christ! God actually allows us to watch Peter’s faith grow as we read the Gospels, the book of Acts, and Peter’s two letters.

As We Watch Peter’s Life We Understand that *We Cannot Grow Our Own Faith...*It is Solely the Work of God the Holy Spirit as We Surrender to His Will.

A Great Scripture Text To Close Our Study on “Unshakable Faith” Is Psalm 37:5-9 *“Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: 6 He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun. 7 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. 8 Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil. 9 For those who are evil will be destroyed, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land”.*

KEY WORDS TO HAVE UNSHAKABLE FAITH:

- **Commit...**You way to the Lord
- **Trust...**In Him
- **Be Still...**Before the Lord
- **Wait Patiently...**for Him
- **Do Not Fret...**
- **Refrain from Anger...**
- **Turn from Wrath...**
- **Hope in the Lord!**

As We Follow This Text...May We Like Joseph...Trust God with Unshakable Faith in ALL Things that Will Come to Pass this Coming Year!

“LIFE” POINT: *May God Use Our Unshakable Faith to Reach Many for Christ this Coming Year!*