

# UNSHAKEABLE FOUNDATION

## Session #1: Build Your Life on the Rock! (by Pastor Bob Reeve)

Key Passage:

Matthew 7:24-27 *“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: <sup>25</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: <sup>27</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”*

My father told us tons of stories about baseball, but one I'll never forget is about an 18 year-old potential star my father played with, a young man named Don.

*Don was a sensation coming out of Washington High School in 1948 and sought after by all the MLB teams. He was selected as a first-round pick of the Detroit Tigers and slated to be their future shortstop. Not only was he a gifted defenseman, but also a remarkable batter. His primary vulnerability was...arrogance. He proved to be his own worst enemy.*

*At Spring Training in 1949, he appeared to be all that the executives had hoped for. In order to facilitate his development, they assigned Hall of Fame baseball player Hank Greenberg to give him some batting tips. After a session in the batting cages, Hank could tell that this young hotshot was not listening to him and ultimately told the coach (with a lifetime batting average of .313) these words, “Hank, you hit'em your way, and I'll hit'em my way.”*

*Don was never heard from again on an MLB baseball field.*

It's one thing to talk a good game, and another to produce. And nobody succeeds in the long run when their life is built on faulty foundations, whether it is an attitude, a dearth of knowledge, or an expression of laziness. Foundations must be solid.

2 Timothy 2:19 – *But God's truth stands firm like a foundation stone with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and “All who belong to the Lord must turn away from evil.”*

A sure foundation is one that is anchored to the immovable. Like the depth of a physical structure, the fundamentals of a good education, the essentials of athletic endeavor or artistic performance, a good foundation is critical to enduring success.

Contractors look for the “bedrock” when developing a foundation for a structure. Our lives must be attached to the rock, or we'll find ourselves blown about by the winds of life.

The Bible is clear that everything is tested. James said, *“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him”* (James 1:12). The right foundation will withstand both the predictable and unpredictable stresses that may come our way.

And if we build right, we become the platform for the future, a legacy base that allows future generations to thrive. *“They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor”* (Isaiah 61:3b).

How do you build a solid foundation for your faith?

First, **get religion out of the way and make a relationship with God your central focus.** In other words, it's not about what you do, but about who you are. Basing your life on doing nice things will NOT build a strong spiritual life. It may make people admire you, but we are not looking for people's approval, we are looking for God's. Merely attending church, and even serving on a team does not build a solid foundation in and of itself. No, a solid foundation of faith is built on knowing God personally.

Simply put, do the following to build a vibrant relationship with your Heavenly Father:

**1. Pray.**

Prayer is talking to and listening to God. It is heavenly communication. Relationships survive and thrive based on communication. Talk to God as often as possible. Make Him your best friend.

**2. Read the Bible.**

The Bible is God's love letter to us. Have you ever received a love letter? What do you do when you get it? You read it over and over to confirm how much you're loved. The Word of God is His love letter to you! Read it and you'll fall more deeply in love with God.

**3. Become a worshipper.**

Learn to lift your heart and your voice in praise to the Almighty. Worship penetrates the heart quicker than any other medium. Discover the wonderful music available to all believers and sense the Spirit in you growing.

Second, **commit yourself to a group of like-minded followers of Jesus.** There is no such thing as healthy "isolated" faith. You need others and they need you. The coals of a fire remain hot when they are close to other coals. But move one out of the heat of the many, and it will lose its usefulness quickly. If you're going to build a solid foundation for your faith that will make you unshakeable, you must have some relationships that keep you on fire for God.

Third, **learn the evidence in creation that supports your position of faith.** The general revelation of God is obvious in creation. The specific revelation of God is the message of the Bible. Both have massive expressions of evidence to support your faith. We live in the information age, so take advantage of the information that builds faith as opposed to destroying it. Nowhere in Scripture does it say you have to ignore the facts to believe, and it does not say you have commit academic suicide in order to have a healthy faith. Be smarter than the world, and they will never be able to shake you!

The question is, on what are you building your life?

- A special person...people are fallible and will let us down or even betray us.
- A goal or dream...an accident can ruin a goal, and a denial can destroy a dream.
- Possessions...nothing is more vapid of meaning than materialism.

Build your life on the Rock Himself! He is the only sure foundation.

**Connect Group Discussion Questions:**

1. In the key passage, if Jesus' words are "the rock," then what are some examples of "sand" in people's lives (ex. money)?
2. Praying, reading the Bible, and becoming a worshipper are three ways of building a vibrant relationship with God. What are some others ways?
3. What are some consequences of being "isolated" in regard to building faith?
4. Which Scripture passages help support your position of faith?
5. How will you make sure your life is being built on the Rock this week?

# UNSHAKEABLE LOVE

## Session #2: The Power of Love (by Pastor John Reeve)

*He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.  
1 John 4:8 NKJV*

The classic movie, *Back to the Future*, popularized a song by Huey Lewis and The News called “The Power of Love,” which is about the power of romantic love.

But as amazing as romantic love is, there’s no love that compares to the love of God, *“for God is love.”* Jack Hayford says, “Love is the very nature of God; it is at the heart of the redemptive grace by which His Kingdom advances.”

The true source of God’s power is His love. The reason He saves us is because He loves us. The reason He heals us is because He loves us. The reason He delivers us from bondage is because He loves us. The reason He moves and does miracles in our lives is because He loves us. All 26 verses of **Psalms 136** (NLT) remind us of this truth with the phrase: *“His faithful love endures forever.”*

God loves us in a way that we cannot fully comprehend. He loves us so deeply, so passionately, and so unconditionally because it is His very essence. As His children, He expects us to love others this way.

The apostle John wrote the letters (epistles) that we now call **1 John**, **2 John**, and **3 John** and he also wrote the **Gospel of John**. He was one of Jesus’ three closest disciples (friends), along with James and Peter, and he referred to himself as *“the one whom Jesus loved”* (John 21:20). According to Church history, the main theme in his writings and in his preaching was love. He reminded the early Christians, and us today, that we must love one another.

When we really know God, we know His love. We are changed by His love. Our hearts are transformed by His love. The power of God’s love enables us to love our world in the same way that He loves us. Here are just a few important verses that encourage us in this:

Jesus says, *“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another”* (John 13:35 NKJV).

The apostle Paul writes, *“For it is Christ’s love that fuels our passion and motivates us, because we are absolutely convinced that he has given his life for all of us...”* (2 Corinthians 5:14a TPT).

John writes in **1 John 3:23 NLT**, *“And this is his commandment: We must believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us.”*

Love is more than a feeling. It is a decision. It requires action. The power of God’s love caused Him to act on our behalf, as **Romans 5:8 NKJV** states, *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

John admonishes us to demonstrate our love: *“Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions”* (1 John 3:18 NLT).

So how do we do this? How can we put God's powerful love into action? There are many ways that Scripture teaches us, but below are three:

### 1. Love gives (John 3:16).

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*  
John 3:16 NKJV

Because God loved you, He gave you a gift. He gave you His best. He gave you Jesus!

You can give without loving. But you cannot love without giving. When you love someone, you give to them. You give them your time. You give them your attention. You give them gifts.

God is generous, so His love is generous.

**"Love in Action":** This week, do one or more of the following...

- *For your spouse:* Buy your spouse an unexpected, surprise gift.
- *For your children or grandchildren:* Spend time with them doing something they enjoy (be sure to put your phone away).
- *For a friend, co-worker, or neighbor:* Have a face-to-face conversation and do more listening than talking. Ask them questions about how they are doing in their life. Make it about them, not you.

### 2. Love serves (Galatians 5:13).

*"...serve one another in love."*  
Galatians 5:13b NLT

God's love is selfless, not selfish; it puts others first. It looks for ways and opportunities and moments to serve others. The Message paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 13:5 says, *"Love cares more for others than for self."*

Jesus modeled this to us. He is the "Suffering Servant" – the Creator who humbled Himself and served His own creation (see [Philippians 2:5-8](#))! It was part of His life's mission as He tells us in [Mark 10:45 NLT](#), *"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

You're never more like Jesus than when you serve.

**"Love in Action":** This week, do one or more of the following...

- *For your spouse:* Serve your spouse in some way, without expecting anything in return.
- *For your children or grandchildren:* Pray with them.
- *For a friend, co-worker, or neighbor:* Find a need and meet it. That's called "ministry," or "service."

### 3. Love sacrifices (1 John 4:10-11).

*"This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other."*  
1 John 4:10-11 NLT

It's easy to love when it's convenient or doesn't cost you anything. But real love – God's love – sacrifices. It pays a high price to reach, help, and impact others, regardless of the personal cost. This is how God loves us and how He has called us to love others, even our enemies – those who don't like us or disagree with us (see **Matthew 5:43-48**).

Often the sacrifice of love is dying to our own desires or needs and putting others ahead of ourselves. Anyone who is married quickly realizes this, and even more so after you have children. It's not about you. It's about God. And God is love.

**“Love in Action”**: This week, do one or more of the following...

- *For your spouse*: Plan a date night and/or do something that your spouse enjoys (i.e. go to a restaurant, watch a show, etc.), even if you don't!
- *For your children or grandchildren*: Work on being present with them – talk, laugh, and eat together...and ignore your phone completely.
- *For a friend, co-worker, or neighbor*: Go out of your way to do secretly something kind for someone else.

**Connect Group Discussion Questions:**

1. What's the main thing that encourages or challenges you from this reading?
2. There were several Bible verses on “The Power of Love” referenced in the reading. Which one stands out to you the most and why? (Or is there a different Bible verse or passage on love that speaks to you?)
3. Read 1 John 4:7-21. (If you don't have time to read the entire passage, focus on verses 7-8.)
  - What do you learn about God's love?
  - What do you discover about loving others?
  - How can you apply one thing from this passage to your life?
4. How have you personally encountered the power of God's love in your life?
5. Have you ever experienced the power of God's love through another person? Explain. (In other words, which person in your life has demonstrated the love of Christ to you?)
6. How have you demonstrated the power of God's love to someone else? Explain.
7. Of the suggested “Love in Action” points, which one are going to do this week? (Or you can come up with your own action point.)

# UNSHAKEABLE FAMILIES

## Session #3: Give Your Best to Have God's Best!

(by Pastor Sherry Reeve)

*By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established.  
Through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.  
Proverbs 24:3-4*

Underline the words: wisdom, understanding, and knowledge. These are vital elements to implement in your family relationships.

Christian families don't happen by accident, they take work and commitment. For you to have God's best, it is important to give your best.

Everyone desires to have a happy, healthy family. It is important to take the Word of God and apply it in your life and home. The enemy hates your family. Don't compromise by settling for what you don't want simply because you are unwilling to fight!

Often you must unlearn your past and go against "society" to build your strong family, by implementing the following principles:

- **It is important to FORGIVE one another.**  
When we act out of authentic love, we choose to focus on the future and not allow our minds to be obsessed with past failures. Forgive and forget, don't keep score.  
1 Thess. 5:15 – *"Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else."*
- **Take time to LISTEN to one another.**  
Don't interrupt, mind read, or speak for one another. Listen, don't be judgmental, and keep good eye contact. Forget about being right and make things right by learning to disagree agreeably.  
James 1:19 – *"My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."*
- **Be KIND and COURTEOUS to one another.**  
Courtesy is best shown in the way we listen and speak to others. Say "thank you" often and be an encourager. Lay yourself aside and avoid the "I deserve" mentality. Give your undivided attention to focus on what is being said. Practice clear communication and think before you speak.  
Col. 3:12 – *"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."*
- **Speak life to one another.**  
The way we speak to one another carries so much power. We have the capacity to build up, encourage, and edify one another or tear apart, discourage or destroy them with our words.  
Prov. 18:21 – *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue."*  
Research notes that the first 30 seconds to 2 minutes of a conversation will determine the outcome. Use a soft start up!  
Turn down the volume, don't be critical, mumble, complain, or speak negatively.  
Prov. 18:21 – *"Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones."*

- **Maintain your humor with one another.**  
Be calm and let your house be filled with peace and joy. Take time to laugh together and enjoy one another.  
Is your house a place others want to be?  
Prov. 17:22 – *“A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.”*
- **Treat one another with grace.**  
Grace means the freedom to fail and gives us the ability to be able to “chill” and let things go in the midst of a tough time. Strive to reach out with a willing ear to listen, an understanding heart, and a helping hand. Look at the big picture and not past mistakes.
- **Do you have the attitude of Christ toward one another?**  
Every day, you can ask yourself these questions:
  1. What can I do to help you today?
  2. How can I make your life easier?
  3. How can I be a better (husband, wife, parent) to you?

There are important keys for building a healthy family:

1. **A healthy family is created around God’s presence.**
  - What are your priorities?
  - What do you do to bring God into your house?
  - Do you pray and read the Word as a family?
  - Do you have communion as a family?
  - How much time do you spend with God?
  - How much time do you spend with your family?
2. **A healthy family is motivated by the power and love of God.**
  - You can make the decision that your family will walk in love.
  - Don’t be afraid to show affection, to touch and hug your family.
  - Touching is a calming presence, and helps the immune system and reduces stress.
  - Love is a super power like super glue. Your motivation should be, “I choose to love.”
  - Love forgives and is not angry or selfish.
  - Remember, you don’t have a family for what they can give to you, but what you can give to them.
3. **A healthy family is built with time.**
  - Have a “date night.”
  - Have a family night.
  - Take time each day to talk with each family member.
4. **A healthy family is designed with vision.**
  - It is important to work hard and make the right sacrifices.
  - What do you want your home to be like?
5. **A healthy family is adorned with honor and respect.**
  - Do you treat your family the way you treat others?
  - How do you show honor and respect to your family?
  - Do you give your family members value?

**6. A healthy family is filled with fun.**

- Recreation is the oil that keeps the motor running.
- Life should be fun and exciting with your family.
- Don't bring your work home all the time.
- Your home should be calm and filled with laughter.

**7. A healthy family prospers through wisdom.**

- Wisdom is living out in life what you know.
- Wisdom is seeing things through God's eyes.  
James 1:5 – *“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”*
- If you put yourself in the place of others instead of putting them in their place, it changes the way you see life and the way you live.

**8. A healthy family prays.**

- Never underestimate the power of your prayers.
- Pray for miracles to happen in your family and for favor to fall upon your mate and children.
- Pray against strife.  
I Thess. 5:17 – *“pray continually.”*

Phil. 2:2 – *“Then make me truly happy by loving each other and agreeing wholeheartedly with one another, working together with one heart and mind and purpose.” (Living Bible)*

If you can live according to this verse it will change your family dynamics. Find some way every day to communicate genuine affection and appreciation to your spouse and children. Remember, there are no “do over’s” in our life!

**Connect Group Discussion Questions:**

In reference to “the important keys for building a healthy family,” discuss the questions that relate to each key:

Key 1: Choose a question from the first important key and share your answer.

Key 2: How do you show love to each family member?

Key 3: How much time do you spend with each family member?

Key 4: What is your vision for your family?

Key 5: What words come out of your mouth for each family member?

Key 6: Do you laugh with your family? What things do you do for fun with your family?

Key 7: What can you begin to do for your family that will make a difference?

Key 8: What are things you can pray specifically for your spouse and kids?



# UNSHAKEABLE ATTITUDE

## Session #4: It's Your Choice (by Pastor Judy Walker)

*Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him.  
Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.  
Ephesians 3:17*

Your flight is cancelled, the car breaks down, the computer crashes, but you are... **unshakeable**. Having an unshakeable attitude means that no matter the circumstance, your attitude remains constant and consistent.

Circumstances are predictably unpredictable—they *will* happen and usually when you least expect them. You may not be able to control or choose your circumstances, but you can control and choose your attitude. It's your attitude that influences your behavior and impacts those around you. Let's face it, we can all use an attitude adjustment.

**Your attitude is your mindset.** It is what is rooted deep inside your spirit and shapes how you look at the world. Your attitude is different from your mood. Happiness, for example, is a mood or temporary feeling controlled by what happens to you from the outside. Joy, however, is an attitude that is rooted inside you and sustains you independently of what is happening on the outside. An unshakeable attitude is like a mighty oak tree rooted in solid ground. The wind might make its branches sway and it may lose some leaves, but it stands strong and endures even in the roughest weather. In what is your attitude rooted, or better yet, in *Whom?*

**When your attitude is rooted in Jesus, you become like the mighty oak rooted in solid ground.** As our faith in Jesus grows, so does our desire to become more like Him. Jesus was unshakeable. In the midst of opposition and hostility, Jesus was unshakeable. In the face of rejection and betrayal, Jesus was unshakeable. On the cross, Jesus was unshakeable. The apostle Paul says that we (Christians) *"must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had"* (Phil 2:5). We are called to imitate Jesus in His humility, selflessness, obedience, and love among many other attributes that He demonstrates so perfectly for us. We can never be perfect in our imitation of Him, but, when we ask, the Holy Spirit will guide us and help us as we strive to be conformed to Jesus. We can't do it on our own, but Paul says, *"Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes"* (Eph 4:23).

**Practice. Practice. Practice.** The more we practice being like Jesus, the more we will become like Him. The more we become like Him, the more we develop His kind of unshakeable attitude that enables us to withstand adversity, to love others unconditionally, and to boldly share His light and love with a world that desperately needs Him. Look for opportunities to practice being like Jesus.

**Have an "attitude of gratitude."** Thanksgiving is not just a day, it's an attitude. When we give thanks constantly to God for His love and His goodness, we begin to develop an attitude of gratitude. Like joy, it is an attitude rooted deep inside that influences everything you think, say, and do. When you think about how much God loves you, cares for you, guides you, provides for you, protects you, heals you, strengthens you, comforts you, refreshes you, sustains you, helps you, corrects you, teaches you, grows you, delights in you...(pew!)...not to mention that because of His unshakeable love for us, Jesus died for us, saved us, and promised eternal life for us—your heart will fill with gratitude.

Gratitude takes the focus off of ourselves (our problems and fears) and onto God. Gratitude counts the blessings and not the troubles. Gratitude helps us not sweat the small stuff (or the hard stuff). Gratitude helps us become unshakeable.

You cannot avoid adversity, unkindness, or pain, but you can find joy and be grateful in the midst of it. An unshakeable attitude is not based on ever-changing people or circumstances, but rooted in unshakeable Jesus. *How unshakeable is your attitude?*

Col 2:7 – *“Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.”*

**How do you develop an “unshakeable attitude”?** Here are a few important steps:

- 1. Pray.** Develop your relationship with God. Talk with Him every day. He wants to hear from you and speak to you. Jesus was in constant communication with His Father through prayer. Approach God humbly and sincerely, and ask Him to help you to follow His ways, to be more like Jesus, and to bring glory to Him.  
Col 4:2 – *“Devote yourself to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.”*
- 2. Be rooted in the Word.** One of the ways that God speaks to us is through His Word. Read the Bible daily and use the Grow Journal to record how God is revealing Himself to you and how you can apply His wisdom and promises to your life.  
2 Tim 3:16-17 – *“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.”*
- 3. Have “an attitude of gratitude.”** Reflect, remember, and record the ways that you are grateful for all that God has done for you and given to you. God made you (Gen 2:7), provides for you (Phil 4:19), has a plan for you (Jer 29:11), loves you and has saved you (John 3:16)!  
Psalm 100:4-5 – *“Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.”*
- 4. Keep a kingdom perspective.** Try to see people and situations through God’s eyes. We tend to see people and things through our own worldly perspectives and not biblical ones. Keep a heavenly mindset focusing on eternal values and outlooks.  
Col 3:2 – *“Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.”*
- 5. Practice “JOY” (Jesus/Others/You).** Keep the first thing, the first thing. Putting Jesus then others before ourselves will help cultivate the kind of the deep-rooted joy that God wants to us to have in our lives. When we place ourselves last, we can see easily our need for Jesus and the needs of others.  
John 14:6 – *“Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.’”*
- 6. Surround yourself with other people who have unshakeable attitudes.** Negative people pull you down, positive people lift you up. Develop, restore, or reinforce your unshakeable attitude by spending time with those who have unshakeable attitudes.  
Proverbs 27:17 – *“As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.”*

**Connect Group Discussion Questions:**

1. What is the most impactful thing that you learned from the video about attitude?
2. How can you apply it to *your* attitude?

3. Do you have an “attitude of gratitude”? What are the things for which you are truly thankful?
  - Take time this week and write down each blessing. Say “Thank You, God!” after each one.
4. How do other people’s attitudes impact you?
5. How does your attitude impact or influence others?
6. What are some ways you can practice being like Jesus?
7. What are 3 specific ways you can practice J-O-Y this week?
8. Who are the people in your life with unshakeable attitudes?
  - Find time to hang out with them.

# UNSHAKEABLE POWER:

## Session #5: Being Filled with The Holy Spirit (by Pastor John Reeve)

*“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

Acts 1:8 NKJV

Have you ever tried using a power tool and it didn't work? And when you figured out why it wasn't working, you realized it was because it wasn't "plugged in," or connected to a power source?

That's what it's like for Jesus followers who try to live their lives without being "plugged in" or connected to the power of the Holy Spirit! It's impossible and frustrating. We need to be filled, or baptized, with the Holy Spirit!

The Holy Spirit is God (Genesis 1:1-2; Psalm 139:7-10; Luke 1:35; John 16:13-14; Acts 5:3-4; Hebrews 9:14), a "He", not an "it." He is not some abstract force, spooky ghost, or distant cosmic influence. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth (John 14:16-18) who...

1. Abides in us, assuring us of our relationship *with* Jesus (John 14:15-18; Romans 8:9-11; 1 John 3:24).
2. Glorifies Jesus, testifying to the truth of Jesus (John 1:14; 15:26; 16:14; 1 Corinthians 12:3; Philippians 2:6-9; 1 John 4:1-3).
3. Empowers us, enabling us to live victoriously *for* Jesus (John 14:17-18; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:11, 31, 37; 1 John 4:4).

Dr. Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ tells this story of a famous oil field called "Yates Pool":

*During the 1920's a field in west Texas was nothing but a very dry sheep ranch owned by a man named Ira Yates. Mr. Yates wasn't able to make enough on his ranching operation to pay the principal and interest on the mortgage, so he was in danger of losing his ranch. With little money for clothes or food, his family (like many others) had to live on government subsidy.*

*Day after day, as he grazed his sheep over those rolling West Texas hills, he was no doubt greatly troubled about how he would pay his bills.*

*Then a seismographic crew from an oil company came into the area and told him there might be oil on his land. They asked permission to drill a wildcat well, and he signed a lease contract. At 1,115 feet they struck a huge oil reserve.*

*The first well came in at 80,000 barrels a day. Many subsequent wells were more than twice as large. In fact, 30 years after the discovery, a government test of one of the wells showed it still had the potential flow of 125,000 barrels of oil a day.*

*And Mr. Yates owned it all. The day he purchased the land he had received the oil and mineral rights.*

*Yet, he'd been living on relief. A billionaire living in poverty.*

The problem? He didn't know the oil was there even though he owned it!

Many Christians live in spiritual poverty. They are entitled to the gifts of the Holy Spirit and His energizing power, but they are not aware of their birthright.

Jesus had a measureless endowment of the Holy Spirit (John 3:34-36), and wants to give us the same unlimited resource (John 20:21-22)! He wants to baptize you with His Holy Spirit (John 1:33).

There are many benefits of being baptized with the Holy Spirit (or “Spirit-filled”) and “Spirit-led” living, including:

**1. New profundity to love others supernaturally, beyond your own ability and capacity (1 Corinthians 12-14, especially chapter 13).**

The primary and most important sign that you have received the baptism with the Holy Spirit, or that you are “Spirit-filled,” is that you love people more than you did before you were filled with the Spirit.

**2. New power to serve others and be a witness of God’s love to them (Acts 1:8; 4:31).**

The reason you should be baptized with the Holy Spirit is to receive the same life, love, and power that Jesus had when He was on earth! The Holy Spirit empowers you to *act, think, love, and live* like Jesus.

You will also receive a greater boldness to share your faith with others.

**3. New pursuit for growth in the Word (John 14:26; Ephesians 1:17-18).**

The Holy Spirit is the Author of the Word of God (see 2 Peter 1:21), and He will be your Personal Coach in teaching you His Word, especially how it relates to your life and how to apply it to your life.

**4. New potential to develop Christ-like character, or the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5, especially verses 22-23).**

The fruit of the Spirit becomes a real option, not an unrealistic lofty ideal. Choosing to walk in the Spirit gives you the ability to overcome temptation. While part of life is dealing with temptation, part of the Spirit-filled and Spirit-led life is victory over those temptations.

**5. New passion for worship (Acts 2:11; 1 Corinthians 14:1, 15; Philippians 3:3).**

The Holy Spirit increases your love for Jesus and your desire to worship Him with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

**6. New potency in prayer and spiritual warfare (Romans 8:26; Ephesians 6:18; Jude 1:20).**

The Holy Spirit equips us for battle and victory in spiritual warfare. The “Spirit-filled” believer is dangerous to the devil and useful to the Lord!

**7. New possibilities for spiritual gifts (Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4).**

Spiritual gifts are endowments given by God to His people for accomplishing His purpose on the earth. They are used to share God’s love and strengthen the body of Christ. Spiritual gifts are given for the glory of God.

**8. New privilege of spiritual language (speaking with/in tongues) (Mark 16:17-18; Acts 2; 1 Corinthians 14).**

Speaking in tongues is a spiritual or heavenly language given to you by God that increases your ability for prayer and intercession (“spiritual warfare”), and is a resource to praise and worship Him.

*“Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,”*  
Ephesians 5:18 NLT

The phrase *“be filled”* in the original language (Greek) literally means *“keep on being filled.”* In other words, it’s not just a one-time encounter.

D.L. Moody was asked, *“Why do you need to keep on being filled with the Spirit?”* His reply was simply, *“Because I leak.”*

Just as your car needs to be filled with gas regularly to continue driving, you need to be filled with the Spirit regularly to continue living for the Lord. Simply ask the Lord in faith with an open heart!

**Connect Group Discussion Questions:**

1. What’s the main thing that encourages or challenges you from this reading?
2. What do you think about the story of Mr. Yates?
3. What misconceptions have you had about the Holy Spirit?
4. Read **John 14:16-18** (Jesus teaches a lot about the Holy Spirit in **John chapters 14-16**).
  - What do you learn about the Holy Spirit?
  - How can you apply one thing from this passage to your life?
5. How have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in your life? Explain.
6. Of the eight benefits of being with filled the Holy Spirit, which is the most important one to you? Have you received any of them in your life?
7. Have you been baptized, or filled, with the Holy Spirit? If not, why not?

# UNSHAKEABLE FAITH

## Session #6 (by Pastor Bob Reeve)

*Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped.*

*<sup>21</sup> And he said:*

*“Naked I came from my mother’s womb,  
And naked shall I return there.*

*The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away;  
Blessed be the name of the LORD.”*

*<sup>22</sup> In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.  
Job 1:20-22*

An earthquake just hit my house with a concussive shake that startles. And once again we are reminded that our world can be shaken at any time.

We live our lives as if everything is fine, nothing changes, and all is secure. In reality, we are a phone call away from a life-changing moment. As a matter of fact, just as surely as earthquakes always have and always will rattle Southern California, so will life-changing events happen in your journey.

Our faith is the foundation of a secure life that withstands the tsunamis, the tornadoes, the quakes, or the storms of life. Faith is that which connects us to our Heavenly Father. Even though we are small and seemingly insignificant, the Creator loves us completely and promises to see us through the storms of life.

But you never know how solid your faith is, until it is tested.

The book of Job tells the remarkable story of one man of great faith, tested beyond comprehension by the forces of hell, yet refusing to give up on His love and commitment to the Lord.

Job had everything the modern person could desire...wealth, family, and business success. Beyond that, he was humble and credited all this as God’s favor (as opposed to his own accomplishment).

As we follow the story, Satan the “accuser,” challenges God on the genuine faith of Job indicating that God protected Job, which was the reason for his faithfulness. Satan finally declares, *“But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!”* (Job 1:11).

God never laid a hand on Job, but allowed the enemy to steal all that was precious to him. In a devastating series of events, Job’s life was destroyed. Even his wife and friends turned their backs on Job. It was brutal.

This tragic tale is painful to read, but not disheartening. For you see, Job never turned away from God or trashed his faith. *“Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him”* (Job 13:15).

The conclusion of the book reveals a restoration of all that Job had previously possessed—wealth, health, and family. It is a story of God’s redemption.

The lessons to be learned here are many, but for the purposes of our study, let’s focus on his “unshakeable faith.”

Job was a man of was sorrow, suffering, and set back!

And yet, he makes an outstanding statement! He said, *“Though He slay me, yet will I trust in him.”* Job had an unshakeable faith!

- He did not understand everything that God was doing, but he confessed, *“Yet will I trust in Him!”*
- He was hurting and suffering, but he declared, *“Yet will I trust in Him!”*
- He was unsure of what the future held for him, but he exclaimed, *“Yet will I trust in Him!”*
- He was greatly reduced physically, financially, and even relationally, but he shouted, *“Yet will I trust in Him!”*
- His friends had turned on him and made false statements about him, but he sighed, *“Yet will I trust in Him!”*

Job had an unshakeable faith! It was a faith that could not be toppled or totaled! How was it possible that a man could have such a faith, going through as much as Job did?

1. **He was unshakeable because of his *relationship* with God!** Job had a close walk with God before the trial ever came! In fact, Job loved God even more because of what the trial was doing for him!
2. **He was unshakeable because of his *resignation* to God!** Job submitted himself to God and did not question Him! He would later say, *“When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.”*
3. **He was unshakeable because of his *responsibility* to God!** Even though he was set back, Job knew that losses did not alter the fact that he was still supposed to live for God! Don't quit being a Christian when setbacks and afflictions come your way!

Job could not have **unshakeable faith** until he first had his faith shaken... terribly shaken!

The Bible teaches in James 1:2-4 NLT that unshakeable faith comes from having our faith shaken,

*“Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. <sup>3</sup> For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. <sup>4</sup> So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.”*

Faith is like film, it develops in the dark. Faith is like a muscle, it gets stronger when worked. Faith is most valuable when it is most needed.

Friend, what would it take to dislodge faith from your heart?

- ...a betrayal?
- ...loss of money?
- ...death of a loved one?
- ...persecution for being a follower of Jesus?

Listen, these things all rattle us as surely as the earthquake shook my home. Let me ask you a question. To whom or to what will you turn?

Jesus encountered opposition from His birth all the way through to His crucifixion. In one particular instance, as His own people rejected Him, He turned to His disciples saying, *“...“Do you also want to go away?” <sup>68</sup> But Simon Peter answered Him, “**Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.** <sup>69</sup> Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”* (John 6:67-69).



When your world shakes and quakes, don't look into a bottle, but into the eyes of the One who turns water into wine.

When everybody rejects you because of your convictions, don't compromise; instead intercede for their blindness.

When you are overlooked for a promotion because you won't "play hardball," remember that He is your provider, not your employer.

When your health is attacked and the reports aren't good, instead of sulking in self-pity and blaming God for not caring, why don't you praise Him and look for opportunities to bless those around you.

When your kids reject the faith in which you raised them, don't panic and express disappointment, instead pray, love, and trust that *"when they are old they will not depart from it"* (Proverbs 22:6).

When you experience the shocking loss of a loved one, don't let bitterness against God settle in your soul, but hold fast to the confession of King David at the loss of his own son and declare, *"Can I bring him back again? I will go to him one day, but he cannot return to me"* (2 Samuel 12:23).

Just because everything and everyone around you is in a tizzy, you can be anchored to the Rock. That's "unshakeable faith!"

### **Connect Group Discussion Questions:**

1. What challenges you most about this lesson on "unshakeable faith"?
2. It's easy to praise God in the good times, but how can you remember to remain faithful in the bad times?
3. Since unshakeable faith emerges as a result of a maturing relationship with God, what are some things you can do to strengthen this relationship?
4. Are you an "I'll trust God if..." or "I'll trust God—period!" type of Christian?
5. Is there anything that has shaken your faith? How was it tested?
6. Do you know anyone who has unshakeable faith? Were their lives problem-free? Did their lives shape their faith or did their faith shape their lives?

# UNSHAKEABLE GENEROSITY

## Session #7 (by Pastor Josh Reeve)

*A generous person will prosper;  
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.  
Proverbs 11:25, NIV*

Financial security comes through unshakeable generosity. Ok, so I know CFPs (Certified Financial Planners) will cringe at the apparent dismissal of necessary financial habits that pave the way for long-term success (I'm all about tenacious saving!), but I stand by it: financial security comes through unshakeable generosity.

Let me unpack it for you.

Generosity is not just a thing done for a tax write-off, it's a core part of a believer's life. How we handle finances reflects God's character (He's a Giver), shows we are grateful to Him for what's been given to us, demonstrates that we love others as they receive the overflow of His generosity to us, and that we trust God for provision.

Here are four truths about generosity:

1. **Generosity can be learned.** Let's face it – we're selfish by nature. Don't believe me? Go visit your local playground and watch a toddler for a few minutes, and you will see that they live by the following motto: "What's mine is mine and what's yours is mine." They are taught to share and, in the same way, we must learn to be generous. God has entrusted us with resources, it's our responsibility to open our hands.
2. **Generosity is a condition of the heart.** Most people think generosity is quantity-based or an amount. It is neither because it's a state of one's heart. If it were reserved to just an amount, then only 1% of the wealthiest 1% would muster up. Because it is a state of the heart, we know that even the widow with her mite can be recognized by Jesus for her generosity. Just as it was with the widow and is now with us, it is not the amount, but an open heart lived out with an open hand.
3. **Generous people are more enjoyable to be around.** Would you rather be around a "Grinch" or a generous person? They view the world differently and live out those views with their actions. One steals life and one springs it forth. Think about yourself for a moment – are you a "Grinch" or are you generous?
4. **Generosity leads to increase.** We don't give to get, yet those who give seem to receive more. In the act of being generous, it frees one up to receive. Those who hold clenched-fist to what they have cannot receive the new that comes their way. Even this proverb notes that there is something about pouring out, refreshing others, that then allows us to be refilled or refreshed ourselves.

So as you move forward with your Unshakeable Challenge, let me encourage you to grow in your generosity over this time. Start small, find an opportunity for growth, and do it. Remember that you cannot out-give God and have an open hand that reflects your open heart. Be unshakeable in generosity!

### Connect Group Discussion Questions:

1. Who in your life has been an example generosity? Share who it is and one characteristic or example of why you consider them generous?

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2. What is one barrier you face regarding being generous? Pray for God to help you in this area.
3. How does God's "economy" differ from our culture?
4. Generosity doesn't happen by accident. In what area would you like to grow in your generosity (time, talent, treasure) and why?
5. Identify one way in which you can live with generosity in action in the upcoming week. Write it down and put it in a place to remind yourself this week.