

## Unshakeable Faith

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Week 1, August 4, 2024

It is a bedrock truth of God's Word; YOU can possess Unshakeable Faith.

*<sup>1</sup> Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. <sup>2</sup> Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love— Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."*

*<sup>3</sup> Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.*

*<sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. <sup>5</sup> He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we **will come back** to you." (Gen 22-NIV)*

Isn't it time to possess Unshakeable Faith, in an unwavering and unmovable God?

When faith is described by the **adjective unshakeable** you are featuring a kind of faith that is unmovable, unalterable, unyielding and **so durable it cannot be destroyed.**

**Now, who has the Unshakeable Faith?** God or You? Well God for sure; but you can grow into having Unshakeable Faith too.

It is a bedrock truth of God's word; YOU can possess Unshakeable Faith. God loves to provide Unshakeable Faith to his people in their hour of need.

Call it what you want.

God is a **firm foundation.**

God will **never fail.**

God will **carry you through.**

God will **never let you down.**

\*God provided a way of escape for Isaac, from the surefire death of an obedient Father.

\*Who can forget three Hebrew males, stuffed into a blast furnace, so hot those doing the king's bidding were incinerated.

\*And from the beginning of time, Job announces, even if he slays me, yet will I serve him.

*Though He slays me, yet will I trust in him. (Job 13:15-NIV)*

Jesus makes this truth blindingly clear in the Sermon on the Mount.

*<sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. (Matt 7-NIV)*

While facing financial hardships, relational disappointments and health crisis, you can survive these challenges as you walk in Unshakeable Faith.

Why is this truth so critical? Who has not wondered- will this load lighten? Will these clouds disappear? Will this pain subside?

Because at times all people raise these questions-will our depression ever diminish, will our fear ever fade, and will our sickness ever stop?

Now, let's get a glimpse of God's Unshakeable Faith.

Now, this next truth is worth the price of your gas to get here today! An Unshakeable Faith (in God) is available not because you have it all together, but because God holds it all together by his word.

In fact, I want all of us to look at this verse on the screen and then say it with full voice. I will say it first, then YOU!

*He holds everything together with his powerful word. (Heb 1:3b-NCV)*

God's Unshakable Faith knows no limits-

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.*

*When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned,  
Nor shall the flame scorch you. (Is 43:2)*

Ok, Ken I am convinced, but what qualities do I need possess in order to have an Unshakeable Faith? Good question. Let me see if I can help you. Help a brother, help a sister out!

To experience unshakeable faith and to experience God's unshakeable faith...you are going to go through many tests with God, and each one is designed to build in you **Unshakable Faith**.

Here are the **4 tests** you will see over and over in the life of Abraham as we do a deep on how God created Unshakable Faith in this father of faith, patriarch to Issac and Jacob and Joseph and friend of God.

What Test. Where Test. When Test. Why Test.

In Gen 12 and Hebrew 11, we meet the Father of Faith-Abraham. 3 world religions trace their founding to Abraham who lived in Iran/Iraq and whose name was changed by God from Abram to Abraham. Christianity, Islam and Judaism all claim Abraham as their founder. While the first 11 chapters of Genesis cover several thousand years, the rest of Genesis, about 39 chapters, covers only 400 years. The spotlight of Genesis 1-11 is on mankind, but that shifts in Genesis twelve to a single family whose patriarchal head is Abraham.

Genesis 1-11 moves from root to stem, while Genesis 12 moves from stem to the forest.

Abraham is a friend of God and the father of all who believe in Jehovah God. In OT, we often say, The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. In the NT, he is The God of the trinity of the Father, Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit.

Psychologists remind us, "man was created to live in a place or space that is recognized and respected by others."

The idea and importance of such a place and space is developed not just in science, but scripture. And never forget all truth is God's truth. And scripture predates science. In our opening verses of Genesis 12, we see God revealing this

truth when he tells Abram to... *The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. (Gen 12-NIV)*

For the next few moments, let's look at the tests that God's uses to reveal **HIS** Unshakeable Faith and to grow **YOUR** unshakable faith.

God's goal is to make you like Jesus. To look like you belong in heaven. God's goal is not to make you happy, but to make you holy.

And in order for God to get you ready to live with Him in heaven and fulfil your eternal destiny **you have to go through some tests.**

In heaven you are going to fulfilling God's purposes for your creation, but on this side of heaven you are in the **growing stage**. The **testing stage**. Not everything works right. Not everything goes the way you want. The world is filled with hardship, sin and suffering and that is by God's design to shape you like Christ.

God is more interested in your character than you comfort. So, quit getting all frustrated because of jobs that don't pay, and friends who won't play. And cars that won't run, and whether that won't sun.

One of the ways God grows you into the image of Christ is to test you. When you move to a new qualification at work, the next class at school or get a drivers license you take a test. God builds your character through a series of tests. The good news is that there is purpose behind every problem. Purpose behind every pain. Purpose behind every pressure. Even purpose behind every pleasure.

Problems exist to grow and test your character. Problems exist to grow your faith. And you either have wilted/wobbly faith or unshakeable faith. When problems come, you either flounder or fold. Or you grow and get stronger. Look at James 1:2-4, NLT.

*<sup>2</sup>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. (James 1-NLT)*

God wants you to be ready for anything in life. Job loss. Marital strife. Economic leanness. God wants to make you resilient. Responsible. Reflect his image.

Look back at the verse and look at James 1:3, **faith is a test**. The way you build unshakable faith is you have your faith tested. Let's follow Abraham from Iran to Israel and follow him through the pages of God's word. One test at a time. The What test, Where test, When Test and finally the Why test.

1. Abraham's first test was the **WHAT Test**. (Genesis 12:1-3)

Like Abraham God is going to come to you with a new task, new dream or new assignment and tell you to do something.

Here is what I am **asking you** to do. Here is what I am **telling you** to do. And sometimes it will be shocking and surprising. Or big or it may seem impossible. I call this **What Test**. *The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you." (Gen 12:1-NLT)*

You know you are in the What Test if God comes to you and you say, "WHAT?" Wwhhhaaaaat? Me? No way Jose'. I think you got the wrong person. Whhatt? When God asks you to do something that is so new, so difficult or just plain out of your comfort zone...**you respond with a What?**

Abraham did not want to move. He was settled. He was successful. Families in the Middle East do not leave their homeland. And families that are large know that their success and favor is tied to their land and current circumstances. Vs 5 tells us Abram had a big payload...

<sup>5</sup> He took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all his wealth—his livestock and all the people he had taken into his household at Haran—and headed for the *land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, (Gen 1:5-NLT)*

This is the first time God appears (vs 7) to man since God banished our parents Adam and Eve from the garden of Eden. This story helps us understand what it means to move with God.

Life is made up of occasions where God will ask you to leave the familiar and go to the unfamiliar.

To leave security and embrace uncertainty.

To leave safety and embrace surprise.

Now, when a plant is separated from the source of nourishment it can droop and fade. When you are called to move, to go and relocate, make sure you do what Abram did, and along the way meet with God. (vs 7-8) *So Abram built and alter there to the Lord, who had appeared to him. (Gen 12:7-NET)*

Familiar support systems are important to health, when they are missing friends, life groups, accountability, CR, you can decay and die. New support systems must be established when God calls you to go from the familiar to the unfamiliar. **The first test** is God wants you to do something that seems difficult. Move your family. Change your job. Marry your friend. Serve your church. Give God his tithe. This is something you have not done and seems impossible. That is the What Test. What?

Unshakeable faith is following God's leading without knowing what?

2. Abraham's second test was the **Where test**.

Now the reason you can move with God in the What test, is because God is building Unshakeable Faith and when you pass this test, blessing awaits you on the other side. (Gen 12:1-3)

We are talking about Unshakeable Faith. What is unshakable faith? It is facing the future without knowing what. And without knowing Where. Look at Hebrews 11:1, *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1-NIV)*

Unshakeable Faith is facing the future without knowing what is going to happen. The next test raises the question, "where are we going Lord?"<sup>8</sup> *It was by*

*faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went **without knowing where he was going.** (Heb 11-NLT)*

Abraham lived in a city called Ur, in Iran/Iraq. How would you like to live in Ur. Urrrr. Sorry, I need to burb. Where are you from? UUUrrr. Big city called Ur. God tells Abraham I have sovereignly selected you, to make you the father of faith. To make you a great nation. **But I am not going to do it here.** I am going to it in **Palestine.** The **Promised Land. Israel.**

I want to move you, and I will show you where. Now this is a difficult move for Abraham because he was 75. As one author says, “when Abraham is ready for social security, he is about to experience social insecurity. When he is looking for a rocking chair, retirement and a leisurely round of golf, God says it is time to go to work and move to the Promised Land.

**Get ready for the adventure of your life at 75.** Major change in life. He is ready to **retire**, God says, I am ready to **refire. Inspire.**

You are going to **raise some hellfire** for the kingdom of God.

You are about to move into your greatest season of life at the age of 75. Now, here is our problem today. Too many people at this stage of life are looking for a rocking chair and retirement. Research tells us the most profitable seasons of a persons life is during their 60’s, 70’s and then 50’s. Come on grandpa and grandma shake off those dancing shoes and let’s get moving.

Abraham asks God, “where are we going?” Look at what the verse says, “*so Abram went, as the Lord had told him.*” (Gen 12:4-NIV)

Abraham, like you and me wants it all spelled out.

What direction do I go? Just go.

How long is it going to take? You will find out.

Would you move? Would you ask, “where?” You and I miss out on untold blessings because we need to know where. God doesn’t give you where, he gives you **what he will do.** (Read with me Gen 12:2-3-NIV)

*“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.  
<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” Gen 12:2-3*

A potential blessing for you and Abraham a seven-fold blessing awaits every believer who moves when you don't know where. God is telling you to move with him. God tells us just trust me. I am not going to tell you where. How long is it going to take? Or even what awaits you. I am asking you to just trust me. This is the second test, the Where test. <sup>8</sup> *It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land. (Heb 11-NIV)*

Unshakeable Faith is following God's leading without knowing Where.

Would you do that? You are going to be tested by God with the **What test** and the **Where test**. If you are not already, it is coming!

Will you wilt and wobble, or go fueled on Unshakeable Faith? Some of you are in the **What test** and some of you are in the **Where test**. Now the next test is the **When Test**.

3. Abraham's third test was the **When Test**.

Abraham obeys God and arrives in Canaan, but he does not get to settle down, he has to live in tents. Abraham lives in tents all of his life. That leads me to the 3<sup>rd</sup> test, the When Test. The 3<sup>rd</sup> test is you are going to experience a **delayed promised**. You are going to be asking when? God, when will you do this God?

<sup>9</sup> *By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. (Gen 11-NIV)*

God has over 7000 promises in the bible for you. And he fulfills these promises on His terms and timing. God is not a vending machine, and you say the prayer and you the promise instantly. If God worked that way it would not require



any faith. God does not work for you; you work for him. Some of the promises are not going to be fulfilled in this lifetime.

The delayed promise is the When Test. First you go, Lord What? Then you go, Lord Where? Then you go, Lord When?

When is my healing going to happen? When will this job get better? When am I going to get married? When will I have a baby?

You are going to go through the **When Test** many times. Later God would promise Abraham an heir, but it would be many years and many mistakes before the promise would come true. <sup>15</sup>*So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne.* <sup>16</sup>*Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.*

Abraham makes a big mistake here; he is tired and impatient during the, **When Test** and goes into his concubine and Hagar bears him a son. For the next 13 years Abraham experiences misery. By the way, the number 13 in the bible is connected to rebellion. But, at the age of 100 for Abraham and 90 for Sarai, Jehovah completes his **When Test** with Abraham and Sarai. Look at Gen 17, and we see that Abraham and Sarai are told of a baby's soon arrival and an end to the When Test.

<sup>21</sup>*But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year.* <sup>22</sup>*When he had finished speaking with Abraham, God went up from him.*

<sup>23</sup>*On that very day Abraham took his son Ishmael and all those born in his household or bought with his money, every male in his household, and circumcised them, as God told him.* <sup>24</sup>*Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised,* <sup>25</sup>*and his son Ishmael was thirteen; (Gen 17-NIV)*

How long did the, When Test last? 13 years.

Unshakeable faith is following God's leading without knowing When?

Look at the verse where it says, *“I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year.”*

This is the fulfillment of one of the greatest promises in the bible, that an old couple, beyond child-bearing years will have a family. Many of you have given up on a promise because the conditions for its fulfillment have declined. You have aged. You are poor. Your health is bad. You think God is unable to fulfill a promise because the conditions are not ideal.

Stop that thinking. Those are the best conditions. For God loves to work and intervene when the setting looks hopeless. In fact, that is a common theme in the bible. When all hope is gone, God comes through. God loves to intervene when the moment is hopeless. When the enemy is about to win, when you are out of strength.

*<sup>9</sup> But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. <sup>10</sup> That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Cor 9-NIV)*

God wants us to base our lives on promises not explanations. If you accept this, you will build Unshakable Faith. God wants you to build your life on his promises, not your perceptions.

God does not owe you an explanation for anything in your life. Don’t let that keep you from him. Don’t reject God because you can’t figure this Christian life out. God does not explain when, why or even how things happen, what he will explain is **what Jesus’ death can do to change your sinful ways.**

God wants you to trust him. Some events in your life have a long wait attached to them. Joseph was in prison for 2 years. Paul had a sickness that was never cured. King David waited in Hebron for 7 years before he became King of Israel in Jerusalem.

You may be in the **When Test** right now. It does not seem to be ending. When? When? Lord when you are you going to take care of this issue, problem, person, finances, health...not what? Not where? Now when?

Unshakeable faith is following God's leading without knowing When?  
The last test is the why test.

#### 4. Abraham's fourth test was the Why test. (Gen 22:1-5)

And this is from the text we read at the beginning. Why God have you asked for such a hard thing? My son as a sacrifice. If Abraham asks why, it is not spelled out in the text. But we see Abraham passes the **Why test** with flying colors.

*<sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. <sup>5</sup> He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we **will come back** to you." (Gen 22-NIV)*

When God asks you to make such a sacrifice you know the pressure a test like that have on your faith. Abraham has experienced many tests up to this moment in his life. But none compared to the Why test. God's command is clear. This is to be Abraham greatest hour. His greatest test. All of his future hangs in the balance. Abraham will either pass the Why test, and trust God or he will fold and flounder.

God did not call for the boy to serve in the temple providing sacrifices, God wanted him as a sacrifice. Isaac was to be the burnt offering. It was all or nothing. God wants to test Abraham's faith, and it was the boy or nothing. Abraham passes the Why test and offers the boy immediately.

He follows God's command. God has promised descendants from Isaac, so Abraham based his decision on God's promises not on his perception of the moment.

Look at the situation and **crumble**, look at what is being asked by God and **stumble**; but look at the promises of God and walk humble.

*<sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir." <sup>4</sup> Then the word of the Lord came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." <sup>5</sup> He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be.*

<sup>6</sup>*Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness. (Gen 15-NIV)*

Let's end by revisiting 4 tests each of you will or are facing. And why not like Abraham offer to God your worship and shaky faith and let God do the rest. We will worship and then we **will come back** to you." (Gen 22-NIV)

Join me at the alter and surrender one or more tests to God. And he will be your Unshakable Faith and grow your Unshakable Faith.

Unshakeable faith is following God's leading without knowing **What?**

Unshakeable faith is following God's leading without knowing **Where?**

Unshakeable faith is following God's leading without knowing **When?**

Unshakeable faith is following God's leading without knowing **Why?**