

# Unshakable

There are so many things in life that have the capacity to shake us. Whether it is a relational breakdown, a financial crisis, an educational difficulty or an employment issue, we can experience what it is to be shaken.

How many of us may wonder at times, “Can I really live this life I’ve been called to live? Do I have what it takes to really go on following Christ? Will I swerve, crash, and burn?” “What if I can’t keep it up? I’ve failed before. Will I swerve, crash, and burn again?”

What does it takes to **live an unshakable life**? **Life-change happens best in community.** I am convinced that community groups—Fellowship Groups are the best relational involvement for us to have an unshakable walk with God.

What’s a Fellowship Group? It’s a small group of people who meet regularly in homes together for care, encouragement, biblical discussion, discipleship, prayer, food and fun. Lives are enriched. People are transformed.

Our relationship with God was never meant to be a private thing. You can say that God is the most important part of your life. If that is true, why don’t you let anyone know about it? If God is the most important part of your life, why won’t you let anyone help you? The Bible is clear. Even though your relationship with God is personal, it was never intended to be private.

God knows we need each other so we won’t swerve, crash, and burn—so we won’t be shaken. God’s word talks about just how important this is in *Hebrews chapter 10*.

*Heb 10:23-25 (ESV) ‘Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.’*

The Bible says, don’t neglect to meet together. God knows that we grow best and we grow most in community and in small groups. **We impress**

**people from a distance, but we impact them up close and personal.**  
That's where we learn how to be unshakable.

These verses tell us how to be consistent – how to be unswerving, how to finish well. In other versions, v23 reads... *'Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess...'* (NIV). *'Without wavering, let us hold tightly to the hope we say we have...'* (NLT).

It's so important to be connected relationally with a group of people who will encourage you and help you and challenge you. The Christian life is a team sport. It's a group effort. It's a one-another ministry, it's a unity community.

Somebody said, "Show me a Christ-follower you would call unshakable and almost always I'll show you a person who is engaged regularly in meaningful relationships with a small group of Christ-followers. Show me a person who believes all the right stuff, who has prayed the prayer to receive Christ, but who struggles in the faith on the job and in the home, and I'll show you someone who is not yet connected."

Let me give you five keys for an unshakable life. We won't be shaken when we...

## **1. Count on Christ**

I'm glad that it's not all up to me. I'm grateful that although I need to do my part. I need to keep myself in the love of God. I need to keep in community relationship with God's people. I need to be committed to gathering with God's people. It's not sheer self-effort. This life we've been called to live is a God-thing. Look at the last part, <sup>23</sup>*He who promised is faithful.'*

Whatever the Lord promises, He will perform. So, you can truthfully say, "Lord, without You, I would swerve off the path. I could wreck my future, my marriage, my job, my family, my faith without You. But You have the steering wheel of my life. You'll keep me on the right path. I'm grateful that You have saved me, are saving me, and will ultimately save me."

*I Cor 1:7b-9a (ESV) declares, 'Our Lord Jesus Christ... will sustain you to the end... God is faithful.'*

You can live an unshakable life and it's not all up to you. You have a Rock you can depend on. His name is Jesus. You have access to Him in

prayer. You can trust Him. You can hear Him and obey Him knowing that <sup>23</sup>*He who promised is faithful.*'

You won't be shaken, You can count on Christ.

But don't miss this: **Christ has chosen to work in your life through others!** The church family are His body to you – His voice, His hands, His feet, His ears. Other people are to be “Jesus with skin on” to you. So, if you want to be unshakable, the rest of this bible passage says that you have to **put yourself in environments where Jesus helps you through others.** You count on Christ, but you also count on Him through others.

You won't be shaken when you...

## 2. Plan for Growth

You can count on Christ to make you unshakable when you work out His plan. And what's His plan? Look at v24. *Heb 10:<sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works...*'

Consider the word “consider.” It means you've thought something through. “Consider how.” Have you thought much about *how* you will be unswerving in your faith? Do you have a plan?

Most of us don't have a plan spiritually. Our spiritual growth happens, if it happens at all, randomly. Do you have a plan?

*Isa32:8a (ESV), says, <sup>8</sup>He who is noble plans noble things...*'

What is your plan to impact people? Just how are you going to stir others up to love better, to do more good works? Perhaps it's – “I'll be a good example.” Or, “I've put a fish on the back of my car.” If you're honest, most of you would have to say, “I don't have a plan.”

Well here's a great plan. *Heb 10:23-25 (ESV) 'Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering...And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together... but encouraging one another, and all the more...'*

How about participating in this plan. Stirring one another up to love God and people and good works that impacts lives. Meeting together in obedience and honour to God and encouraging one another to keep

following Him. Participate in this plan. You know, if we really got to grips with this, you could make history.

We would not only grow in our Fellowship Groups, but our Groups would grow too in multiplying. And it's not just to get bigger and bigger as a church, but because we want more and more people to experience changed lives. Why do we want more and more people in small groups? Because we grow best and we grow most in groups.

This was Jesus' plan. It's what Jesus did. He had 12 disciples. One defected. But he was replaced. Then Jesus sent those 12 to do for others what Jesus had done for them. They went out and changed the world from His small group.

The greatest potential for impacting our community doesn't just take place when we gather on Sunday. It happens in the homes of people in Fellowship Groups week after week after week.

You just need to show up and watch God go to work. You won't be shaken when you plan for growth. And you won't be shaken when you...

### **3. Meet with Friends**

You can't separate your internal spiritual life from your external relational life. Look at *Heb 10:<sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some...*

Meet with friends, meet with God's family. *<sup>25</sup>Not neglecting to meet together.*

You need friends around you that will stand with you when you need support, friends that will pray for you when you need a miracle, friends that will provide practical help, friends that you can be on the journey with. You need a place where you can discuss the word of God together. A Place where you can learn what it means to live in God's Kingdom together and share lives together. An environment where you can pray together, eat together and have fun together. A place where you do life together. A place where care is given and received.

In a fellowship Group, friends can cook meals when there's a need.

Meet with friends. There's a cumulative value in your life when you put yourself in a Fellowship Group environment.

You could argue that you're too busy. The truth is we're all busy. But I believe something happens once you walk through the Fellowship Group door. God shows up. And usually He has something for you to get from the group. And He has something for you to give.

You won't be shaken when you meet with friends. And you won't be shaken when you...

#### **4. Cheer Others On**

Sometimes, for all of us, we have struggles and questions, even doubts. That's where our Fellowship Groups help you and strengthen your faith. And that's the way it's supposed to be. Look at *Heb 10:<sup>25</sup>encouraging one another...*

Even in your low moments, and we all have them, you see God at work in the hearts and lives of people in your group, and you get encouraged.

I like what *Eph 4:29 (NLT)* says, *<sup>29</sup>Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.*

Where can you go to talk about your dreams or hopes or fears or struggles? Isn't it a reality that if we can't find a place for that, we may just swerve, crash and burn?

Who else will cheer you on if not God's family? You need encouragement. You need someone to tell you, you can do it, to spur you on to love and good works. If not you, who? If not now, when? In a race the crowd around cheers the runners on. In *Hebrews 12* you are surrounded by a *'great cloud of witnesses'* cheering you on. In our Fellowship Groups you have a group of people who believe in you, who are rooting for you, praying for you, encouraging you and cheering you on. And when one wins, we all win!

You won't be shaken when you cheer others on. And you won't be shaken when you...

#### **5. Stay Plugged In**

Why is it so important to stay plugged in? We often think of habits from a negative aspect. But how many of you know there are extremely good

habits too. Like regular showering, brushing teeth, washing clothes. How about antiperspirant deodorant? What about paying the rent or mortgage every month and the utility bills. Oh and then there is food. We like to habitually take some at least twice a day! And what about the setting alarm clocks to get up and get out to work or church on time?

Now this is a great habit too—stay plugged into church. Get plugged into a Fellowship Group too. There are too many Christians who are “off and on” or “hot and cold.” They are a bit like yoyos we used to play with as children – up and down, up and down. And often down more than up.

The people who aren't shaken are the ones with staying power. They stay plugged into church and small groups. Look at how the passage in *Heb 10* ends... <sup>25</sup>*all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*'

The “Day” that the Hebrew writer is referring to is the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ. The closer we get to the return of Jesus, the more we need mutual encouragement. The suggestion here is that life may not get easier and therefore the need for mutual encouragement to keep going on in Christ grows. The closer we get to the return of Jesus, the more we need to be plugged into Fellowship Groups.

How close are we to the return of Christ? The obvious answer is this: We're one day closer today than we were yesterday.

And that means we ought to be even more committed to assembling together than ever before. Yet there is a tendency to be less regular in our gathering together than we used to be. In fact Heb 3:13a (ESV), says, <sup>13</sup>*Encourage one another **daily** as long as it is called “today.”*

You won't be shaken when you stay plugged in.

I know that you may be saying, “That's OK for him or her, but not me, not now.” We can have a built in resistance to this. I know that.

When you first went to school, you entered into new relationships to get an education. If you joined a team at school, you entered into new relationships to win games. But when you started a job, you entered into brand new relationships to make money – to provide for yourself.

You had to show up and start working with people you didn't know. Some you liked. Some you didn't. You went into new relationships that were structured for you.

If you want to live your life without being shaken, then you have to apply to your spiritual life what you've done in your educational, recreational and financial life.

**A truth to meditate on: Life change happens best in groups.**

It's great and right and biblical when you gather on a Sunday for sung worship, mutual encouragement and to hear someone preach. The truth is: life-change doesn't happen best when we sit in rows in an auditorium and listen to a speaker – and we must continue to do that. **It happens best in groups.**

**A verse to take in:** *Heb 10:24-25a, ESV, Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together.'*

**A change to take on: Choose to - hang out with the sold out.**

**Count on Christ** – He has promised and He is faithful.

**Plan for Growth** – Spur on one another to love and good works.

**Meet with friends** - In a Fellowship Group environment.

**Cheer Others On** – Encourage one another.

**Stay Plugged In** – Commit to the great habit of gathering together.

For some, this has been a great reminder. For others, it's been a brand new challenge. For others, it's time to jump in again. You say, "I tried it before." I say, "Try it again because we are going to a whole new level with our Fellowship Groups."

It's the means God has given you so you won't swerve, crash, and burn. God has called us together. And together we are unshakable.