



“Football Sunday 2021: UNSHAKEN FAITH”

ICEBREAKER |

What is your favorite Super Bowl memory?

INTRODUCTION |

Super Bowl is a Super Sunday for more than one reason. It’s the end of a long season, and one team will take home the ultimate victory. For all of us, though, it can mean the beginning of an even greater victory. In 2020, we all experienced events that have caused our lives to be thrown into disarray, confusion, and doubt. But in the middle of these events, we believe God is firmly planting us to be unshaken in our faith!

We all experience times of being shaken! It can be a job loss, a bad phone call from a friend, a tragic event, a night of lost sleep, or even a global pandemic. In those times where it feels our whole world is being turned upside down, who do we turn to?

READ |

I have set the LORD continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Psalm 16:8 (NASB1995)

Just like each team in the Super Bowl has that player who is their go-to on the field, the coach who is their go-to in the locker room, or that one play that's their go-to when the chips are down, so we, as believers in Christ have that go-to who brings victory, healing and redemption to our situation—JESUS! The Lord is always with us, no matter what we face. And we are facing a lot today.

What is something that has shaken your faith this last year? How have you overcome it, or if you haven't yet, how are you trusting God to bring you through it?

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Once, while Jesus was talking to His disciples, He warned them that there was trouble coming. In fact, He compared it to being sifted like wheat. Take a look:

“Simon, stay on your toes. Satan has tried his best to separate all of you from Me, like chaff from wheat. Simon, I've prayed for you in particular that you not give in or give out. When you have come through the time of testing, turn to your companions and give them a fresh start.”

Luke 22:31-32 (MSG)

To make flour, people would take wheat and beat it on the ground to separate it. Then they would toss it in the air and let the wind carry away the rough husks that were lighter than what remained in the middle of the pile. After doing this over and over again, what remained was worth eating and could be ground into a fine powder.

I don't want to be wheat! But sometimes getting put under pressure can be a good thing. When you are pressed, what is inside you will come out. When we have God's word and presence in us, we can be sure that any pressure or stress will produce something good for us and others.

Think of a time when you were in a stressful situation and came out the other end better. What lessons did you learn? How did God help you?

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When we face troubles, we can help others if we are unshaken. You heard stories during the message of people whose faith was put under pressure, but they learned not to be shaken. Their testimony can strengthen you, just like yours can strengthen someone else.

Take a moment to think of someone who is going through some trouble right now. Just like Jesus told Peter that he can turn to his companions and help them have a fresh start, so can you give the people whom God placed in your life (family, friends, co-workers, etc...) help and encouragement in their biggest time of need.

What are some very practical ways we can help someone who is going through trouble to remain unshaken?

READ |

When Jesus left the earth, His disciples felt all alone. They might have remembered this conversation and gotten scared. They knew that trouble was coming. What were they going to do?

“Don’t worry,” Jesus had told them. Although He was leaving, He was sending a Helper, the Holy Spirit.

“When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth.”

John 16:13 (NLT)

What are some truths from God that can help you remain unshaken in the middle of trouble?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

It's easy to get excited on Sunday, but it's hard to live out that assurance Monday through Saturday. When we're surrounded by other people, focused on worshiping God, and tuning into a great message, we can have explosive faith!

This week, when it feels like trouble is coming, remember...

- Turn to God and
- Turn to each other

...as we remain UNSHAKEN!

CLOSE IN PRAYER

God, we would love it if You removed every obstacle and trouble in our way. But we know that You have something different planned for us. Help us remain unshaken as we face tomorrow. Whatever comes our way, we know that we will be better for it as long as we keep our eyes on You. When trouble comes, remind us to first and foremost turn to You and then turn to each other for support. In Jesus' name we pray, amen!

SCRIPTURES FOR S.O.A.P.

Day 1: *So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.*

Matthew 6:34 (NLT)

Day 2: *Our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.*

2 Corinthians 1:7 (NIV)

Day 3: *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."*

2 Timothy 2:19 (NLT)

Day 4: *After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness. All the believers were united in heart and mind.*

Acts 4:31-32 (NLT)

Day 5: *So since we are receiving an unshakable kingdom, let us give thanks, and through this let us offer worship pleasing to God in devotion and awe.*

Hebrews 12:28 (NET)