

UNSHAKABLE **FAITH**

Living Strong in the Kingdom of God



DEBRA L. BUTTERFIELD

UNSHAKABLE FAITH

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FOREWORD

This book contains valuable information for those who want to know more about spiritual warfare—to know where the weapons of our warfare lie and to pick them up and start fighting the fight. It is not for the beginner only, but also for those who are more mature in the faith.

The author has gone from a Christian with no power to a Spirit-filled Christian that is right in the middle of the fight for “The Faith of the Cross.” Her book is for everyone who wants to know the ministry in the form of victory.

God has not called Spirit-filled Christians to be idle, but to fight as violent men and women of prayer, who not only know Him (Jesus) as His bride, or child, but as a soldier standing ready for battle.

Pastor Larry Gray
Founder & President
Hosanna International Ministries

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I have set the LORD continually before me;
Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
Psalm 16:8 NASB

I know the LORD is always with me.
I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.
Psalm 16:8 NLT

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

Welcome! I'm so glad you've chosen to do this Bible study. My heartfelt desire is to see you grow as a Christian, but also to grow deeper in your relationship with God. This study is designed to help you do both.

Each lesson has been designed to be completed within fifteen to twenty minutes. Some chapters have five days of lessons, others have six days because the topic was too lengthy to cover in five.

Do not feel you need to do one lesson per day. Complete this study in whatever time frame is convenient for you.

This book can be used as an individual study or done as a group. If done in a group, the group could meet once a week and complete one chapter per week. These time lines are offered only as a guide.

Goals of this Study

- Teach you the fundamentals of Christianity
- Grow your faith
- Grow your relationship with God
- Help you stand strong in your belief in God and His promises.

Materials Needed

The primary tool you will need to complete this study is a Bible. If you don't have a printed copy, you can access many digital versions of the Bible on BlueLetterBible.org, BibleGateway.com, or via phone apps like Bible by Life Church, and The Bible app from YouVersion.

Occasionally, you'll need a dictionary.

You can write your answers directly in the book or in a journal of your own.

PART ONE:



KINGDOM BASIC TRAINING

INTRODUCTION



Yeah, right, you're thinking. Unshakable faith is impossible. As I prayed about what to title this Bible study, I had the same reaction when those words paraded through my thoughts. But God was right there with His answer, "Everything is possible with God."

And that's the key—we are doing life *with* God. Seeking first His Kingdom, His vision and plan for our lives, and His guidance in fulfilling that vision. Rather than doing things in our own power or through our own knowledge and skills, we seek the wisdom and guidance of Holy Spirit first and foremost.

If you think you should never feel fear or discouragement or any other negative emotion, that's wrong thinking. We are emotional beings; it's natural to experience negative emotions as well as positive. This doesn't mean your faith has been shaken.

You will be shaken only when you embrace that negative emotion and focus on the circumstances. In the pages that follow, you will learn the fundamentals of the Christian faith and how to apply God's Word, the Bible, to your life. This study will give you the tools to resist Satan and conquer the difficulties and trials he assaults you with. You will learn how to stand your ground and fight back with the Word of God.

Having unshakable faith doesn't happen overnight. Nor does it happen without commitment to knowing God's Word and developing your relationship with Him. If you are looking for a quick, easy fix, you might as well return this book or give it to a friend.

Unshakable faith will come as you keep your focus on God's promises and then, like David, you can say,

"I have set the LORD continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken" (Psalm 16:8).

CHAPTER 1

WHO IS GOD?



So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom. Luke 12:32 NLT

Lesson 1

What Is the Kingdom?

How can we live a life of unshakable faith in God's Kingdom without first understanding what the Kingdom of God is?

As I've read verses like Matthew 6:33, "seek first the kingdom of God," and Luke 17:21, "For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you," I wondered exactly what *was* God's Kingdom. If I didn't know what His Kingdom was, how could I seek it and how could I know for sure if His Kingdom was within me?

And then there are verses like 2 Peter 1:3, "As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue." This verse more than any other piqued my desire and spurred my search to understand God's Kingdom. Because for me, life was a constant struggle to survive. Even though I believed in God and was a born-again Christian, I lacked joy. I felt my life did not reflect the truth of any of these verses.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines kingdom as “a politically organized community or major territorial unit having a monarchical form of government headed by a king or queen.”

As an American living under the rule of a republic—by the people and for the people—kingdom rule was hard for me to grasp. It would seem that during my growing years I unconsciously took in the concept of autonomy, the state of being self-governed. I don't like the idea of being ruled by anyone. It connotes dictatorship, living under a ruler who does what's best for him no matter the cost to his citizens. History is replete with kings who lived in luxury beyond our comprehension while his citizens toiled endlessly to support the king's lifestyle, but they themselves lived in hovels with barely enough to feed their family. Of such are revolutions made.

Having lived four years in Germany and visiting many places and other countries, I saw firsthand the opulence of kings' castles. The Palace of Versailles in France was particularly eye-opening. The total acreage is 2,014 acres, which includes 230 acres of gardens.¹ By way of comparison, a football field is 1.1 acre. The palace itself contains 679,783 square feet of floorspace,² roughly fourteen football fields. The Hall of Mirrors, the most famous room of the palace is just short of eighty yards in length and contains 357 mirrors.³ And I haven't even mentioned all the gold! No wonder the French revolted.

Heaven has an opulence all its own, and I'm so glad God doesn't make me work to furnish it!

Merriam-Webster's also offers this definition: “the realm in which God's will is fulfilled.” That definition brings to mind Matthew 6:10, “Your kingdom come, Your will be done,” and Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward

1. Wikipedia

2. Wikipedia

3. <http://en.chateauversailles.fr/discover/estate/palace/hall-mirrors>

you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” That definition I can embrace.

I am of the Baby Boomer Generation, raised by parents who lived through the Great Depression and who both served in the US Marine Corps during World War II. I grew up under the strict disciplinary hand of my father. My siblings and I received spankings when we disobeyed or behaved wrongly. My childhood was “do as you’re told or else.”

I feared my father, and the Bible told me to fear the LORD God. Consequently, I saw God in the same light as I saw my father—someone who was very strict and to be afraid of.

When I surrendered my life to God and accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, it was not the experience I had often heard from others—coming joyfully to the altar to find forgiveness for sins.

I attended the Methodist church as a child and learned the usual Bible stories taught in Sunday school—Tower of Babel, Noah’s Ark, Mary and Joseph going to Bethlehem, baby Jesus. I believed in God and believed Jesus died to save me, but God was not the ruler of my life. Up to that point He was someone who punished me when I did wrong. I saw all the bad things that happened in my life as coming from Him—His punishment for misbehaving. At the age of twenty-four the circumstances in my life had become unbearable. My Marine husband was at sea, serving aboard a Navy ship, and had been for months. My three-year-old was yelling from the bathroom for something he needed. I felt like I was in a wrestling match, and as I stood in the middle of the kitchen, I cried out, “Okay, God. I give up. I’ll accept you as the Lord of my life.”

But that is far from who God is and what His Kingdom is. God spent many years teaching me who He really is. To be honest, it took decades for me to grasp how much God loves me. I wish it hadn’t taken me so long to learn. Over the years I’ve also come to realize that the church as a whole, as the body

of Christ, has fallen short in discipling those who accept Jesus as Lord, those who are born again. That is what has spurred the writing of this Bible study.

As you progress through this study, I pray you will discover God, His mercy, and His grace, and marvel at what living in His Kingdom truly means.