

Aveleigh Year of The Bible, Sept. 9 2018
Sermon Series: FAITH UNSHAKABLE!— Part 1 of 9
Nine Weekly Reflections On Daniel's Life & Book

Text: Daniel 1:1-7

SERMON TITLE: PERSEVERING WHEN YOUR WORLD CHANGES

Call to Worship

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him (Psalm 98:1).

People: We give thanks to you, Lord, for you have done marvelous things!

Leader: When we were walking in darkness,

People: you were there;

Leader: when we were kneeling in weakness,

People: you were there;

Leader: when we were needing forgiveness,

People: you were there;

Leader: when we were searching for your grace,

People: you were there!

ALL: We give thanks to you, Lord, for you have done marvelous things!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION, God of love, fountain of prayer, we confess that our silence is noisy, our minds filled with distracting chatter, our thoughts focused on problems and our eyes bombarded with temptations. How hard we find it to be still and rest in your holy and healing presence. And how hard we make it by driving ourselves to busyness and fatigue.

God of love, usher us into your holy presence. Teach us the words to pray and the silences to keep. Refashion our days and hours so we may always live in constant gratitude for your amazing grace. Amen.

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SERMON TITLE: PERSEVERING WHEN YOUR WORLD CHANGES

“. . . all the foundations of society are being shaken to the core.” Psalm 82:5 (LB)

INTRO: WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR WORLD IS FORCED TO CHANGE...

1. DON'T BE SURPRISED BY ADVERSITY.

“Dear friends, don't be shocked or surprised when you suffer through painful tests and trials as if something strange is happening to you.” 1 Peter 4:12

4 sources: WORLD , FLESH , Devil , What GOD allows

2. LOOK FOR WAYS THAT GOD MIGHT USE IT FOR

GOOD. *God says: “The plans I have for you are plans for good and not to harm you. They are plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11*

A. GOD SHAKES THINGS UP TO INSPECT ME.

- *“The Lord searches our hearts and examines our deepest motives so he can give to each person his right reward, according to how he has lived.” Jeremiah 17:10 (LB)*

FIRST FAITH UNSHAKABLE RESPONCE: What does this problem reveal about me?

B. GOD SHAKES THINGS UP TO CORRECT YOU.

“God corrects all of his children, and if he doesn't correct you, then you don't really belong to him . . . God corrects us for our own good, because he wants us to be holy, as he is. It is never fun to be corrected. In fact, at the time it is always painful. But if we learn to obey by being corrected, we will do right and live at peace.” Hebrews 12:8-11 (CEV)

SECOND FAITH UNSHAKABLE RESPONCE: What is this problem teaching me?

C. GOD SHAKES THINGS UP TO DIRECT ME. *“A person may plan his own journey, but the Lord directs his steps.” Proverbs 16:9 (GW)*

“Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.” Prov20:30 TEV

THIRD FAITH UNSHAKABLE RESPONCE: Where is this problem leading me?

D. GOD SHAKES THINGS UP TO PROTECT US.

“God has led you away from danger, giving you freedom.” Job 36:16

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good . . .” Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

FOURTH FAITH UNSHAKABLE RESPONCE: how could this problem protect me?

E. GOD SHAKES THINGS UP TO PERFECT ME

“After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who calls you to share his eternal glory in union with Christ, will himself perfect you and give you firmness, strength, and a sure foundation.” 1 Peter 5:10 (TEV)

“We can rejoice when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us — they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it . . .” Romans 5:3-4 (LB)

FIFTH FAITH UNSHAKABLE RESPONCE: How can I grow from this problem?

CONCLUSION: TRUST GOD FOR WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND. *“Since the Lord is directing our steps, why try to understand everything that happens along the way?” Provs 20:24 (LB)*

“Trust the Lord with all your heart. Don't depend on your own understanding. Honor the Lord in everything you do and he will give you success.” Proverbs 3:5-6

PRAYER; Merciful God, I your gracious mercy grant us Faith Unshakable. Amen.

FOR THE ROAD: “The Lord searches our hearts and examines our deepest motives.” Jere. 17:10 (LB)

1. *God may shake things up in our lives to inspect us and reveal our motives. Why are the motivations for our actions more important than what we actually do with our lives?*
2. *The ways in which we handle life's difficulties can reveal important aspects of our character. Give some examples of this.*

“Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.” Proverbs 20:30 (TEV)

3. *God sometimes shakes things up in our lives to direct us. What are some painful experiences that might cause people to change their lifestyles, ways of thinking, or behavior?*

“A person may plan his own journey, but the Lord directs his steps.” Proverbs 16:9 (GW)

4. *God often shakes things up to change our direction. Share a time when something unexpected changed your plans and the situation turned out better than you anticipated.*

“How he wanted to lure you away from danger into a wide and pleasant valley and to prosper you there.”
Job 36:16 (TLB)

5. *God sometimes shakes things up in our lives to protect us. What roadblocks may prevent us from responding to God's protection when disappointments and regrets arise in our lives?*

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good.” Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

6. *Share an undesirable situation such as unemployment, ending a relationship, or a health concern that led you to something better.*