

## UNSHAKEABLE, WEEK 3!

Scripture used: [Psalms 62:1-2 \(ESV\)](#)

### OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon wrapped up our “Unshakeable!” sermon series this week. As we head into the election, he reminded us that we are the difference makers in this world. Pastor Dan led us in prayer that focused on how much we all need God, no matter our race, wealth, or political party. We need God’s presence in our lives, in our families, in our communities, in our nation, and in our world. When we rely on God, we can claim His peace rather than the anxieties and fears of this broken world. This is what unites us all as a church, and it is this spirit of unity that pleases God. Despite an election that has polarized our nation, the church can be active in participation AND in depolarization. Even in the church, we can model what it means to disagree yet still love one another deeply. We will have opportunities this week to pray, participate, and work for unity. No matter what happens, we can set the example of unshakeable faith in the Lord, who has the last word!

### KEY POINTS

- 1) **Unshakeable faith requires prayers of declaration, of strength, and of guidance.** This is part of the palm tree faith that Pastor Hurmon described the last two weeks. We can bend — but not break — when we are in the storm of life, and yet we trust in the character of God. We can find comfort in three simple truths: God is good; God is able; and God is for me. With these declarations, we can weather any storm like the bendable palm tree! Consider the example of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They were born into an independent nation of Judah that was then conquered by Babylon. They were forced into exile and had to serve in the government of the King who conquered them. Despite all this, the three Israelites never lost their faith. In [Daniel 3:17-18 \(NIV\)](#) they declared their faith in God, and that faith included the ability to TRUST in God even if He didn’t save them from the fiery furnace.
- 2) **Jesus is the best example of unshakeable faith.** It’s true that Jesus is the Son of God and demonstrated that power many times. It’s also true that Jesus suffered greatly and experienced deep despair. In [Matthew 26:38-39 \(NLT\)](#), He set an example in two different ways. First, Jesus showed courage in being vulnerable with His disciples. He asked for them to stay and keep watch with Him. Second, Jesus turned to God for guidance and strength. In the moments before His arrest and crucifixion, Jesus trusted God even though God was leading him in a direction that required suffering and didn’t answer Jesus’ prayer to have the cup of suffering taken from him. After the resurrection, Paul could write in [Philippians 2:9-11 \(NLT\)](#) that this suffering is exactly what was required to elevate Jesus to the place of “highest honor.” And in [II Timothy 2:11-13 \(NLT\)](#), Paul explained how our suffering with Jesus allows us to participate in His triumph over sin and death. All of this should completely change our orientation toward our suffering in this world. As those who follow Jesus, we should be prepared that, at times, we will face suffering. Suffering doesn’t mean that God isn’t there or doesn’t love us. The strength to persevere through suffering builds that unshakeable faith that will carry us through the global pandemic, the election, and all the other challenges we will face.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - This is the most divisive election in a long time for our nation. Next Sunday we will come back together to worship God, even though we didn’t all vote the same way. This unity is a blessing from God. We can be one as a church despite our differences. Remember that no matter what happens with the election. What are your anxieties this week? Bring them before God!
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Pastor Hurmon challenged us all with a very difficult question: does my faith accommodate suffering? We tend to focus on the benefits of a relationship with God. Unfortunately, it’s more complicated than that. Paul specifically talked about the relationship between suffering and glory in [Romans 8:17-18 \(NIV\)](#). Read this passage and discuss what it means to you.
- 3) **DO** - Commit to acting like a Jesus follower during this election season. Choose to pray and to participate. NBCC developed [an entire section of the website called Pray & Work for National Unity](#) to guide us. Pastor Hurmon also participated in [the First Principles Project](#), which includes dozens of sermons from across the country on the subject of the 2020 elections. See you next Sunday!