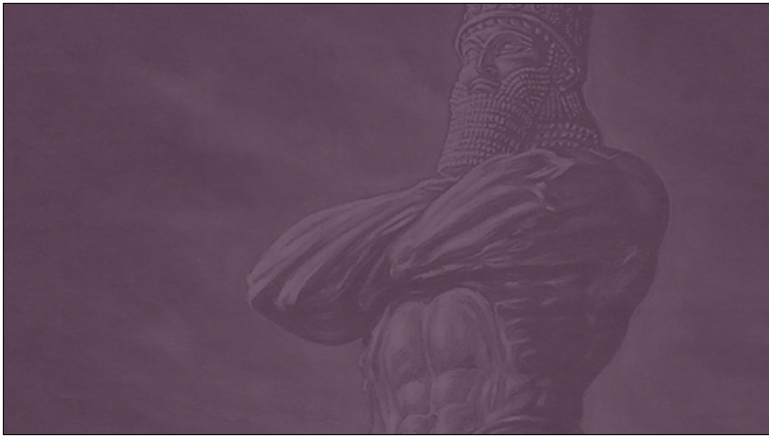
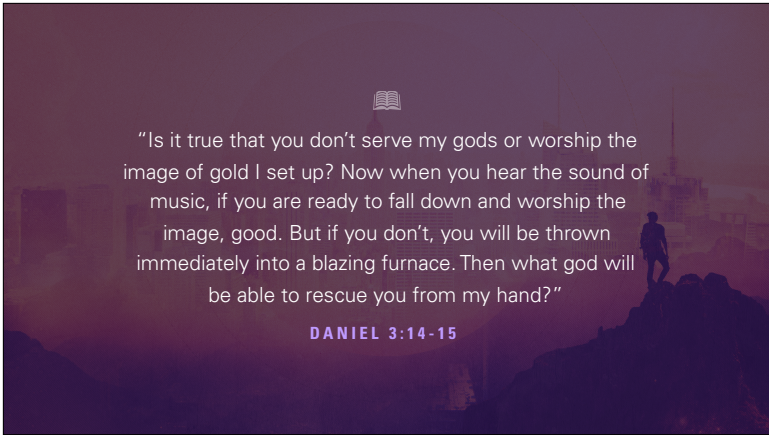


THRIVING IN BABYLON

PART 5

FAITH AND HOPE





"Is it true that you don't serve my gods or worship the image of gold I set up? Now when you hear the sound of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image, good. But if you don't, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"

DANIEL 3:14-15



"Be it known to you, O King, we've no need to answer you in this. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us out of the fiery furnace, and he will? But if not, be it known to you that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up."

DANIEL 3:16-18

"God is able, and he will save us"

unmitigated trust in God

"But if not, we will still not serve your gods"

unreserved submission to God's will



"Weren't three cast into the fire? I see four, alive,
and one looks like a son of the gods!"

DANIEL 3:24-25

UNSHAKEABLE HOPE

**Biblical hope does not mean
optimism or positivity.**

**Biblical hope does means
unwavering focus on the covenantal
goodness of a God who is able.**

GOD IS ABLE

To save to the uttermost.
HEBREWS 7:25

To help those who are tempted.
HEBREWS 2:18

To do exceedingly, abundantly above all we ask or think.
EPHESIANS 3:20

GOD IS ABLE

To subdue all things unto himself.

PHILIPPIANS 3:21

To keep us from falling.

JUDE 24

UNSHAKEABLE HOPE

Biblical hope refuses to accept the present difficulty as final.

Biblical hope agitates anticipation of a divine outcome.

Biblical hope embraces difficulty as a divine tool that promotes God's glory and our good.

UNSHAKEABLE HOPE



"Why are you cast down, O my soul, why are you in inner turmoil? Hope in God!"

PSALM 42:11

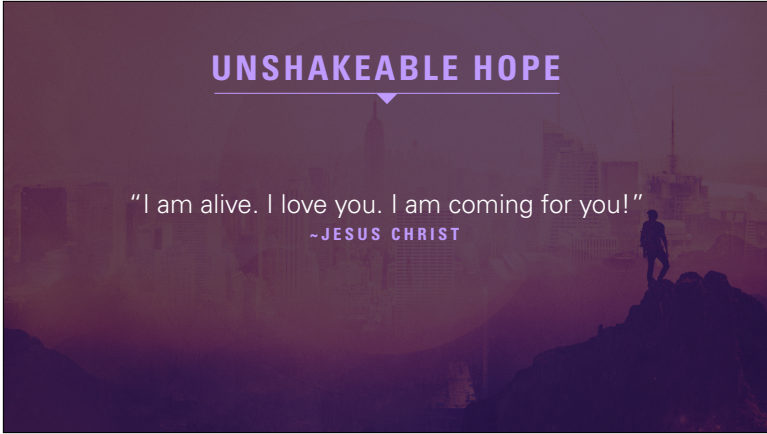
UNSHAKEABLE HOPE

Biblical hope forces a change in how we navigate our circumstances.



UNSHAKEABLE HOPE

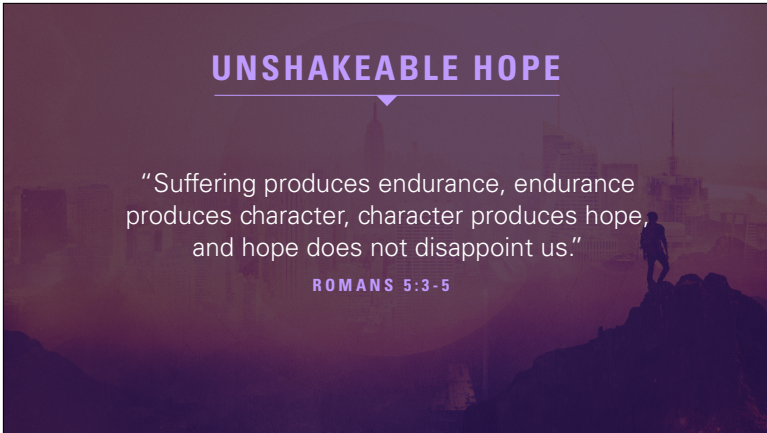
"I am alive. I love you. I am coming for you!"
~JESUS CHRIST



UNSHAKEABLE HOPE

"Suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us."

ROMANS 5:3-5



UNCONDITIONAL FAITH

Unshakeable hope can only grow out of unconditional faith.



UNCONDITIONAL FAITH

"God is able to deliver us, and he will."

Unconditional faith does not mean believing in spite of evidence.

Unconditional faith does mean living in scorn of consequences.



But If Not

Sometimes God doesn't deliver out of the fire, he takes us through it.

The Defiance of Unconditional Faith

"Polycarp was martyred by burning, Statius Quadratus being Roman Proconsul of Asia, and Jesus Christ being King forever!"

TESTIMONY OF THE CHURCH IN SMYRNA