

UNSHAKEABLE

Surrender

IMPORTANT DATES

NOV 13 | KiDS Commitment Sunday
NOV 16 | High School Commitment Night
NOV 20 | Commitment Sunday

To be controlled means I'm not in control.

- **I will at least have control over who is in control over me.**
- **Those who take control when we don't want them to become our enemy.**
- **We fight against those in whom we don't trust in their control over us.**

To surrender means that one must submit to the other's authority and control.

This is why many people see God as their enemy—because God says He is Lord and will have ultimate control.

UNSHAKEABLE BIG IDEA:

In Christ, we are unshakeable!

Our goal is 100% engagement: We want every Westsider to take a next step in faith & generosity so each of us can build an unshakeable faith and together we can release God's unshakeable love.

Acts 6:8-12

Acts 7:47-58

⁵⁴ When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Act 7:54-58 (NIV)

- **Jesus is at the right hand of God because Jesus has the full authority of God.**
- **Stephen was killed for his unshakeable faith because he was unshakeable in his surrender to Jesus as Lord.**
- **Saul didn't see Jesus as Lord. Saul perceived Jesus and His followers as the enemy.**

Acts 9:1-9

³...suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Acts 9:3-6 (NIV)

Saul had an encounter with a resurrected Jesus—who is the greater authority—that transformed him when Saul surrendered to Jesus.

¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. ¹¹ The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." ¹³ "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." ¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Acts 9:10-19 (NIV)

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TEACHING BIG IDEA:

I will have an unshakeable faith when I am fully surrendered to Jesus as my Lord.

What in my life is not fully surrendered to Jesus?

I am fighting Jesus for control of _____.

We willfully submit to Jesus as our Lord because we trust in His goodness and that He truly is Life.

- **When I surrender to Jesus, there will always be opposition.**
- **God cannot bless or transform what I don't surrender to Him.**

As I surrender to Jesus as my Lord, I experience true life, and others will experience Christ's life-giving love through me.



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

We do not like the idea of surrendering. To surrender means to submit to the authority of someone else and lose control. We fight against those we don't want to have control over us.

To surrender is to lose, but to surrender to Jesus is to win. God can do amazing things with a life fully surrendered to Jesus as Lord. Luke shares how God did amazing things in Stephen's life. Stephen had an unshakeable faith because he was fully surrendered to Jesus as His Lord. God did amazing things in Saul's life. Saul fully surrendered to Jesus as Lord. Jesus transformed Saul of Tarsus—the murderer—into the Apostle who would take the gospel of Jesus to the Greek-speaking world. By the way, Saul would never utilize violence again to accomplish God's purpose. He would teach people about the amazing love of God in Christ Jesus.

God can do the same in us when we fully surrender to Him. But He can only transform and bless what is surrendered to Him. What do you need to surrender?

TALK-IT-OVER:

You will find the questions to discuss with others in the *Unshakeable Guide*.

You can access the *Unshakeable Guide* and more at <http://unshakeable.faith>

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

- Day 1) Acts 17:22-28
- Day 2) 2 Corinthians 3:4-6, 17-18
- Day 3) Romans 8:5-16, 26-27
- Day 4) 1 Corinthians 2:9-11
- Day 5) 1 2 Corinthians 5:4-6
- Day 6) 1 Galatians 5:13-17, 24-25