

UNSHAKEABLE

INTIMACY WITH GOD LEADS TO CONFIDENT FAITH

About the Series: In a dark world, God is light. In a cold world, God brings love. In a dying world, God brings life. In this study of John's first letter, you will learn what it means to be in fellowship with God and see that growing more intimately close to Him builds up a confident faith that will allow you to be unshakeable in times of uncertainties.

PART 8

Spiritual Alignment

1 John 4:20-5:13 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

Discussion Questions

1. What is it that you find burdensome to do?
2. To be unshakeable in a challenging and changing world, followers of Jesus need God's Word to align our thinking with the Lord's truth to make sure that how we live our lives is consistent with Biblical principles. How do you check spiritual alignment? Read 1 John 4:20-5:13 and discuss the following principles on how to check your spiritual alignment.

Alignment Check #1: Obedience is not a burden when we are obeying someone we truly love (v. 4:20-5:3). Why would it be hypocritical to say that you love God but you hate a fellow Christian? If you say that you love God, how should you treat His commandments (v. 5:3)? Why would many Christians think that God's commands are burdensome instead of being of great benefit for them? How does your attitude make a difference in showing love for others? Share about instances when you joyfully showed love and did something for God and for His children because of your love for God.

Alignment Check #2: Only through trusting Jesus Christ as the object of our faith do we find true success and victory (5:4-8). Why is following God's command NOT burdensome to those who know that they have victory through their faith in Jesus Christ? What happens when a person places their faith in the wrong object? Give examples of how some people would believe that they could convince God in letting them into heaven instead of trusting

Jesus Christ alone for their salvation. Why does trusting in Jesus Christ as the object of your faith give true success, victory, and joy?

Alignment Check #3: Focusing on our eternal life in Christ keeps us unshakable in changing times (v. 9-13). Why is God's Word greater than any man's word (v. 9)? Who has made God out to be a liar? What testimony has God given concerning His Son Jesus Christ? And what do you have when you have Jesus in your life? Why should these facts about Jesus and what you have in Him keep you unshakeable in this changing time?

Reflect & Respond

John gives us some principles that naturally lead to some self-diagnostic spiritual alignment questions: What is your attitude towards the commands of God in the Bible? Whom are you trusting? Are you trusting in the Lord alone? Do you have a heavenly mindset? Are you focused on eternity? How do you express, both in words and in action, your love for your Heavenly Father?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the reminder that I should be spiritually aligned with Your truth in order to be standing firm in my faith and not be shaken in this changing time. Lord, please help me to live not for the temporary, but for the eternal. Thank You that success doesn't depend on what I have in this life like material things or even intelligence and education, but in having Christ in my life and the hope of eternal life and eternal rewards. In Jesus' name. Amen.