

IV. FULFILLING GOD'S PURPOSES ALONG WITH OTHER BELIEVERS

- A. God comforts all who mourn, but does not intend us to suffer alone. Mother Teresa of India aptly said, "The world's worst disease is loneliness with despair!" We are called to share both in the joys and sorrows of fellow believers.
- B. Mary visited Elizabeth who was also expecting a miracle child. Here, she was encouraged in her faith, renewed in hope and together discovered the joy of the Lord to be their strength and salvation.

Conclusion: This Christmas let us be sensitive and attentive to lonely people all around us. They may be hurting because of the death of a loved one or some loss. Jesus was born to die that we may live and He came to earth new life to give! Therefore be strong, unshakable, and always abounding in the Lord's work. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

OBEY GOD'S WORD ABOUT DEATH

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:"
Matthew 7:24

UNSHAKABLE STANDING STRONG WHEN THINGS GO WRONG Death Dr. Chris Gnanakan

INTRODUCTION

- A. What storms in your life are shaking you? The storms of life will cause you to fall unless you build a rock solid life.

"He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps."
Psalm 40:2

- B. During the Unshakable spiritual growth campaign you will learn how to stand strong when things go wrong. This teaching series will focus on the top storms of life that will shake you.

Oct 5	Rock Solid Life
Oct 12	Lack Of Purpose
Oct 19	Marriage Issues
Oct 26	Career Challenges
Nov 2	Failure
Nov 9	Family Problems
Nov 16	Illness
Nov 23	Doubt
Nov 30	Temptation
Dec 7	Financial Stress
TODAY	Death
Dec 21	Disconnection From God

These are tough times! Come and hear these messages and discover how the Bible can help you to be Unshakable!

- C. **TEXT:** I Corinthians 15:55 (Pew Bible/Pg. 182/New Test.)

HOW TO STAND STRONG OVER DEATH

“O Death where is your victory or grave where is your sting?”

I Corinthians 15:55

Introduction: Death is inevitable! It’s that **separation** and loss which naturally calls for grieving. At Corinth “spiritualists” falsely taught that the believer’s **bodily** resurrection had already taken place. Paul corrects this heresy to show how death is not a dead-end, but a **doorway**. We will be resurrected because **Christ** has risen. Death’s sting is sin, and since Christ came to **save** us from sin, death is defeated. That first Christmas, with other **mothers** of Bethlehem, Mary had to deal with dying. Believers grieve, but not without help and **hope** because we have an eternal home!

I. FINDING **IMMANUEL**

- A. God is with us and always faithful. Believers have to come to terms with **loved ones** dying and may have near to death experiences. Passing through the valley of the shadow of death can be **fearful**.

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”

Psalm 23:4

But, it is here that God has promised to be with us to **comfort** us.

- B. The angel announced to Mary that she would be the mother of the Son of **God**.

“And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”

Luke 1:35

Mary was fearful. She needed to be assured that the Lord was with her and she had God’s favor, sufficient **grace**. Mary brought forth what God sent forth – *Jesus*, meaning **Savior**!

II. **FACING** DEATH WITH AN UNSHAKABLE FAITH

- A. Experiencing death or living with those who are dying can be **disorienting** and challenge our faith in God. This is when we must learn to trust in God’s **sovereignty**. God is too good to be unkind and He is too **wise** to make mistakes in our lives.
- B. Mary did not know exactly **how** the virgin birth would happen yet she demonstrated her faith in God when she **surrendered** to His will. Furthermore she **magnified** the Lord in a joyful song.

“And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord,”

Luke. 1:46

III. FEELING AND **DEALING** WITH THE PAIN OF LOSS

- A. Encountering death we often have two **extreme** reactions. We either deny its reality or are shattered by it and lose all hope. The grieving process goes from denial through **anger**, bargaining, depression and eventually **acceptance**!
- B. Did Mary know of all that would happen to Jesus? How He would be despised, rejected... crucified?! Simeon foretold of a sword that would **pierce** Mary’s heart which she often **pondered** over.

“19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.”

Luke 2:19, 25