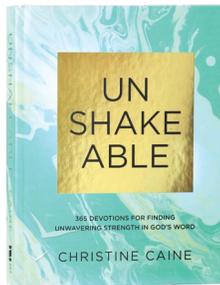


PASTOR'S CORNER

From the Desk of Pastor Daniel Simmons

Book of the Month



Unshakeable: 365 Devotions for Finding Unwavering Strength in God's Word

By: Christine Caine

ISBN#978-0-310-09088-5

Scripture Readings During *Lent Season*

Week of *March 6-12*

Joel 2:1-2

Matthew 6:16-18

Week of *March 13-19*

Matthew 11:21

Philippians 3:10-11

Week of *March 20-26*

1Peter 5:6

Mark 1:12-15

Week of *March 27-April 2*

Isaiah 58:6-7

Luke 13:3

Week of *April 3-9*

Ezekiel 18:21

John 17:17

Week of *April 10-18*

Psalms 91

Purge for Christ

(Many Members, One Body)

12That is why the Lord says, "Turn to me now, while there is time. Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning. 13Don't tear your clothes in your grief, but tear your hearts instead." Return to the Lord your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish. 14Who knows? Perhaps he will give you a reprieve, sending you a blessing instead of this curse. Perhaps you will be able to offer grain and wine to the Lord God as before. --- Joel 2 (NLT)

Lent season is upon us - a six-week period wherein God's people center their attention on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christians all over the world reverently observe this solemn time with daily prayers and fasting as they seek repentance for their sins. They submit their hearts and lives back to the Will of God - seeking His help to purge their lives of all things that are not pure and pleasing to Him.

Fasting and praying during the period of Lent is meant to serve as an emulation of Jesus' experience in the wilderness while being tempted by the devil. Some may think that discomfort of doing without meals, media, technology, etc. - *if not but for a short period of time* - is simple enough. However, even in dedication - it wrestles with our flesh and challenges our mental and emotional fortitude - ultimately strengthening our spiritual perspective and faith in God and His desire to be the Keeper of our hearts.

There are various ways that Christians participate in Lent season. Due to health reasons, not everyone is able to fast. But all of us can give up some time to pray and seek the heart of Jesus. If there ever were times that we needed a Savior, it is most certainly in these present times!

It is my prayer that each of us will bend our knees, go into our prayer closets, or whatever it takes to dedicate times of prayer and fasting during this Lent season. May the Holiest of Holy *purge our lives* so we can get closer than close, see with new sight, love with greater love, serve and share with greater compassion, and tell *the Good News of God's Promises* - and *our personal experiences with His Son and Jesus Christ* - to the harvest of this world that is seeking the truth and evidence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In service to Christ,

Pastor Simmons