



Grace Assembly Of God

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

Scripture:	ACTS 25	Title:	Unshakable Confidence
Author	Ps Benjamin Wong		
Summary of Chapter	Two years have passed since Paul was imprisoned in Caesarea as Felix, the governor was unwilling to sentence Paul due to fear. In this chapter, Festus became the new governor. The Jewish religious leaders requested a retrial in Jerusalem where they intended to ambush Paul and kill him on the way there. Festus denied their request as the charges against Paul were not serious enough and Festus decided to send him to Caesar instead based on his appeal.		

Key Verse(s) NLT	How does it speak to me?
<i>¹⁰...You know very well I am not guilty of harming the Jews. ¹¹ If I have done something worthy of death, I don't refuse to die. But if I am innocent, no one has a right to turn me over to these men to kill me. I appeal to Caesar!"</i>	<p>In the face of these trying circumstances, how was Paul able to still trust in the Lord for his life and future? I believe the answer lies in the person Paul placed his trust in...and that is our Lord Jesus. In Rom 8:38 Paul wrote: "And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love...neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow". Paul had the full confidence in the Lord's ability to deliver him. He was secured in God's love even in the face of death. He also knew who held the reins and controlled the future.</p> <p>The long-drawn phase two of this pandemic has had a toll on many of us and that includes me. With the 2nd, 3rd waves of resurgence of the pandemic in many countries, there is no sight of recovery. Apart from the fear of infection, there is also the fear of retrenchment. Worst of all, even with the vaccine available, there is the reality of not being able to return to the pre-Covid world. People are losing patience and hope. Recently, I journeyed with a depressed Christian brother who lost his health, family, relationships and career. So where and how could we find the confidence to face the new normal?" For me, it was a daily intentional decision to fix my eyes on the author and perfecter of our faith. These truths brought me back to the place of an unshakable confidence in His love. I now can live each day with hope and purpose.</p>

APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult:	What/Who are you focusing on at this time of the pandemic? How can you build an unshakable confidence for the future?
Youth:	What do you usually do if you need to boost your confidence? How can you find the unshakable confidence in our God?
Child:	When we are afraid, we can put our trust in God. The next time you are afraid, say a short prayer to Jesus to protect and help you.

PRAYER

Praying Scripture:	Lord Jesus, I choose to fix our eyes on you today and not on the circumstances. Help us to live each day purposefully knowing that you love me in every circumstances. Indeed, you are our unshakable confidence and hope for our future.
Thanksgiving Prayer:	I/We thank you for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)
Intercessory Prayer:	I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)
Salvation Prayer:	I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen.