



THE SHIFT



PREVIEW

The world we live in is shifting. Their moral compass has gone haywire. What used to be right is now wrong and what used to be wrong is now right. Fifty or sixty years ago most Americans believed in God and the Bible. Sin was labeled as sin, and most people knew there were consequences that came with sin. Nowadays everything has shifted. Many in our society do not acknowledge there is such a thing as sin. For instance, they commit immoral acts and justify themselves with statements like “We are in love” or “We aren’t hurting anyone.” They commit perverse acts and call it an alternative lifestyle.

Paul described this end-time moral shift: “In the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, and puffed up with pride, and love pleasures rather than God” (II Timothy 3:1–4, NLT).

Now more than ever before, we need to know what we believe and remain true to it!


PRAISE

This shifting world can be scary, even overwhelming. Choices can be confusing. What used to look wrong now looks right. Our righteousness is challenged every day. But thank God that He never changes. His truths don’t shift according to the whims of society. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and His Word is forever settled.

PARABLE

One of my favorite things to do at the beach is to stand on the shoreline and feel the waves wash up around my ankles and legs. To me that is so refreshing! But I like it even more when the waves retreat, because they take away the sand from around and under my feet, leaving a tingling sensation that almost unbalances me—and it makes me feel like I’m losing my footing. I barely have enough time to recover myself before the next wave hits. And then another wave rolls in—and another and another.

The world around us is like shifting sand. Just about the time we settle in and feel comfortable, another wave hits and the shifting begins again. There is no firm foundation in the world, only uncertainty as the waves of life roll in. The only way to overcome this shifting world is to keep our feet planted in the firm foundation of Jesus Christ.



PRESENT

Have someone read Acts 3:1–11.

Verse 7 in Young's Literal Translation reads, "And having seized him by the right hand, he raised him up, and presently his feet and ankles were strengthened." When Peter seized the lame man's hand, the lame man gripped Peter's hand and wouldn't let go! The only way to overcome the shiftiness in this world is to take hold of what God has for us.

Jesus said, "Whoever believes in me will do the works that I am doing, and they will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father" (John 14:12, NIV). Jesus said in Mark 1:17 that signs and wonders will follow those who believe. These words of Jesus weren't just for the disciples in the early church; they are for us today. Jesus has brought us to the miracles, signs, and wonders. What we have to realize is that this should not be unusual; it should be the norm! In other words, there has to be a shift—not in our moral compass but in our thinking. We have to realize that this is who we are and this is what the Spirit is equipping us to do!

PRACTICE

How do we grab hold and cling to the unchanging hand of God while the world is shifting around us? We must use discernment, which means asking ourselves: Is this good for me? What do I gain? What is the fruit (or the outcome) if I believe God will do these great works through me? I love that the majority of students aren't falling for cheap imitations the world is offering. What you watch, listen to, and like on social media says more about your discernment than you realize.

Once we learn how to hold fast to the unchanging hand of God, we will be ready for whatever the Spirit leads us to do. The disciples always knew how to touch God when they were in a difficult moment or an unforeseen predicament. I always wondered how they knew exactly what to do, what to say, and how to live. Then God took me on a little journey and taught me to keep a spirit of prayer throughout my day. Standing on the Word of God and keeping prayer in your life throughout the day will keep you rooted in a firm foundation even as the world is shifting all around you.



PRAY

Thank You, God, that I can have a firm footing in this shifting world. Thank You that I can cling to Your steady hand even as my world is shifting all around me. Thank You that Your Word never changes and that You are the same every single day!

PLUS

What things are shifting around you? What things are constant? Can you see God in the middle of it all?

