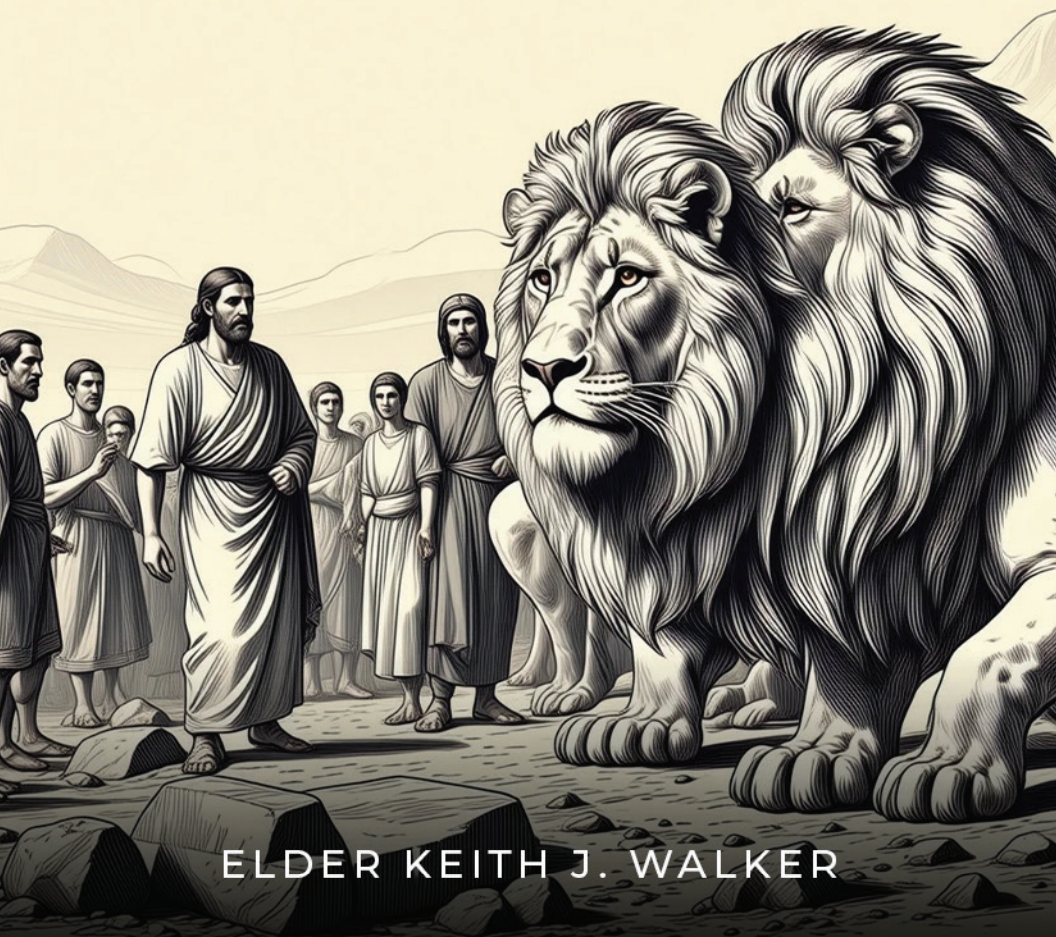


# UNSHAKABLE RESOLVE



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# UNSHAKABLE RESOLVE

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We must have an unshakable resolve. This phrase emphasizes the importance of steadfast determination and commitment, especially in the face of challenges.

## Leaders in the Old Testament with Unshakable Resolve

1. Moses: Despite facing immense challenges, including leading the Israelites out of Egypt and through the wilderness, Moses remained resolute in his mission to fulfill God's plan.
2. Daniel: Daniel showed unshakable resolve by refusing to compromise his faith, even when faced with the threat of death in the lions' den.
3. Esther: Queen Esther displayed remarkable courage and resolve when she chose to approach the king to save her people, despite the risks involved.
4. Nehemiah: Nehemiah demonstrated unshakable resolve in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem despite opposition and ridicule.
5. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: These three young men refused to bow down to King

Nebuchadnezzar's golden statue, showing unwavering faith in God even when faced with the fiery furnace.

6. Samson: Despite his failures and setbacks, including sin in his life, Samson exhibited unshakable resolve. After losing his sight and strength when the Spirit of God departed from him, he repented and sought to regain his strength. In his final moments, he prayed to God for the strength to defeat his enemies, and with the help of a young lad who guided him to the pillars of the temple, Samson pulled them down, bringing about his own death and that of many Philistines. This story is found in Judges 16:28-30:

“Then Samson called to the Lord and said, ‘O Lord God, please remember me and strengthen me just this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes.’ And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and he leaned his weight against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other. And Samson said, ‘Let me die with the Philistines.’ Then he bowed with all his strength, and the house fell upon the lords and upon all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life.”

# Apostles of the New Testament with Unshakable Resolve

## The Twelve Apostles

1. Peter: Crucified upside down in Rome.
2. James (son of Zebedee): Beheaded in Jerusalem.
3. John: Died of natural causes after being exiled to Patmos.
4. Andrew: Crucified on an X-shaped cross in Greece.
5. Philip: Tradition states he was martyred by crucifixion.
6. Bartholomew (Nathanael): Traditionally believed to have been flayed alive and then beheaded.
7. Matthew: Traditionally martyred in Ethiopia.
8. Thomas: Stabbed with a spear in India.
9. James (son of Alphaeus): Stoned to death.
10. Thaddeus (Jude): Martyred, possibly by being shot with arrows.

11. Simon the Zealot: Tradition states he was martyred, possibly by crucifixion.

12. Matthias: Stoned and then beheaded.

## Others in the Epistles with Unshakable Resolve

### Romans 16: Helpers of Paul

1. Phoebe: A deaconess of the church at Cenchreae, known for her service and support.

2. Priscilla and Aquila: A husband-and-wife team who risked their lives for Paul.

3. Andronicus and Junia: Noted as outstanding among the apostles and fellow prisoners with Paul.

4. Urbanus: A fellow worker in Christ.

5. Stachys: Beloved by Paul, showing loyalty and support.

### Greek Meanings of Their Names

- Phoebe: “Bright” or “radiant.”
- Priscilla: “Ancient” or “venerable.”
- Aquila: “Eagle.”
- Andronicus: “Victory of a man.”

- Junia: “Youthful.”
- Urbanus: “Of the city.”
- Stachys: “Ear of grain” or “spike.”

## Paul’s Trials and Unshakable Resolve

In 2 Corinthians 11, Paul outlines various hardships he endured:

- Imprisonments: He faced multiple imprisonments for his faith.
- Beatings: Endured numerous beatings, including lashes and stoning.
- Shipwrecks: Experienced shipwrecks and dangers at sea.
- Persecutions: Faced constant danger from both Jews and Gentiles.
- Weariness and Pain: Suffered from physical and emotional distress due to his ministry.

## Hebrew and Greek Meanings of Paul’s Trials

- Imprisonments: Hebrew: ma’aseh asur (מַעֲשֵׂה אֲסוּר) - “acts of confinement”; Greek: desmos (δέσμος) - “bond” or “chain.”
- Beatings: Hebrew: makkot (מַכּוֹת) - “stripes”; Greek: mastig sis (μαστιγώσις) - “whipping.”
- Shipwrecks: Hebrew: tahum (תַּהוֹמַת) - “depths”; Greek: naufragium (ναυάγιον) - “shipwreck.”

- Persecutions: Hebrew: ra'ah (רע) - “evil” or “harm”; Greek: di gmos (διωγμός) - “persecution.”
- Weariness and Pain: Hebrew: yag'ah (עג) - “to toil”; Greek: kopos (κόπος) - “labor” or “sorrow.”

### Agabus the Prophet

Agabus was a prophet in the early church who demonstrated unshakable resolve in delivering God’s message. In Acts 21:10-14, he prophesied about Paul’s impending imprisonment:

“While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. And coming to us, he took Paul’s belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, ‘Thus says the Holy Spirit: This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’ When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, ‘What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.’ And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, ‘Let the will of the Lord be done.’”

Paul’s response illustrates his unshakable resolve to fulfill his mission, regardless of the dangers he faced.



## Paul and the Snake Incident

In Acts 28:3-5, Paul was bitten by a snake while gathering firewood but displayed unshakable resolve by shaking it off into the fire without suffering harm:

“When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand. When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, ‘No doubt this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live.’ He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm.”

This incident further exemplifies Paul’s unwavering faith and determination to continue his mission despite physical threats.

## Stories of Unshakable Resolve in History

### Historical Figures

1. Abraham Lincoln: Faced numerous failures and setbacks in his early political career but remained resolute in his vision to unite the nation during the Civil War, ultimately leading to the abolition of slavery.

2. Winston Churchill: During World War II, Churchill's unshakable resolve and determination inspired Britain to stand firm against Nazi Germany, famously declaring, "We shall never surrender."

3. Nelson Mandela: Imprisoned for 27 years for fighting against apartheid, Mandela's resolve never wavered. Upon his release, he became South Africa's first Black president and worked to heal a divided nation.

### Athletes

1. Bethany Hamilton: A professional surfer who lost her arm in a shark attack at age 13, Hamilton displayed unshakable resolve by returning to competitive surfing and achieving her dreams.

2. Tanni Grey-Thompson: A British Paralympic athlete who won 11 gold medals in the Paralympics, Tanni faced physical challenges with determination and became a prominent advocate for disability rights.

3. Jim Abbott: Born without a right hand, Abbott became a Major League Baseball pitcher, demonstrating incredible resolve by achieving his dream despite significant challenges.

4. Wilma Rudolph: Overcame polio as a child and was

told she would never walk correctly. She went on to become the first American woman to win three gold medals in a single Olympics (Rome 1960), showcasing unshakable resolve and determination.

## Illustrations and Parables

### Parable of the Persistent Widow (Luke 18:1-8)

This parable illustrates the importance of perseverance and unshakable resolve in prayer. The widow, despite facing obstacles, continues to approach the unjust judge until her request is granted. This teaches us that persistent faith and determination can lead to justice.

### The Story of the Tortoise and the Hare

In this fable, the slow and steady tortoise wins the race against the overconfident hare. The tortoise's unshakable resolve and consistent effort ultimately lead to victory, demonstrating that determination can triumph over speed and arrogance.

## Definitions

### Unshakable

In Hebrew, the word for “unshakable” can be

translated as רערועם יתלב (pronounced: bilti me'orer). This term conveys the idea of something that cannot be shaken, disturbed, or undermined. It implies a strong foundation or steadfastness that remains firm regardless of external circumstances.

## Resolve

The word for “resolve” in Hebrew is תושיחו (pronounced: n'khishut). This term refers to determination, decisiveness, and a firm commitment to a course of action. It embodies the idea of having a strong will or intention to achieve something, often in the face of obstacles.

## Determination

In Hebrew, the word for “determination” can be translated as תויטלחה (pronounced: hachlatyut), which refers to decisiveness and firmness in purpose.

## Perseverance

In Hebrew, the word for “perseverance” can be translated as הדמתה (pronounced: hatmadah), which refers to persistence and steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay.

## Destiny

In Hebrew, the word for “destiny” can be translated as לְרוֹג (pronounced: goral), which refers to fate or the predetermined course of events.

## Greek Meanings

- Determination: Greek: αποφασιστικότητα (pronounced: apofasistikotita) - “decisiveness.”
- Perseverance: Greek: υπομονή (pronounced: ypomon ) - “patience” or “endurance.”
- Destiny: Greek: μοίρα (pronounced: moira) - “fate” or “lot.”

## Summary

- Unshakable (רערועם יתלב - bilti me’orer): Not able to be shaken; firm and steadfast.
- Resolve (תושיחן - n’khishut): Determination; a firm commitment to a goal or course of action.
- Determination (תויטלחה - hachlatyut): Firmness in purpose.
- Perseverance (הדמתה - hatmadah): Persistence in doing something.
- Destiny (לְרוֹג - goral): The predetermined course of events.

Together, the phrase “unshakable resolve” suggests a steadfast determination that remains firm and

unwavering, regardless of the challenges that may arise.

## Conclusion

Throughout history, both biblical figures and modern leaders have demonstrated unshakable resolve in the face of adversity. Their stories inspire us to cultivate a similar determination and commitment in our own lives, encouraging us to stand firm in our faith and purpose. By learning from their examples, we can develop our own unshakable resolve to overcome obstacles and achieve our goals.