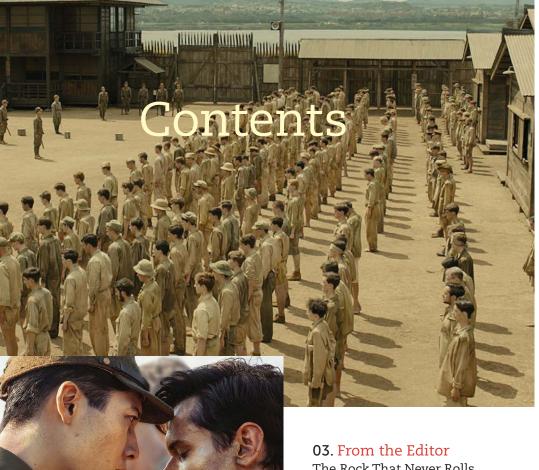
EXTENDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD...ONE PERSON AT A TIME.



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# From the Editor

# ROCK THAT NEVER ROLLS

Where do you go when the earth trembles and the volcanos blow?

### BY STEPHEN SIMPSON

y mother's Dad, my
Grandfather, was a medical doctor and a geologist.
He preferred to be called a "Rock Hound", and loved traveling to collect and study various gems and minerals. But if there was a story behind an ugly old stone, he considered it as much of a treasure as he would a diamond. When I was a boy, he used to take me on rock hunting trips all over the South. He also taught me about seismic events such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

While I am not a scientist, I have continued to be interested in natural sciences through my adult life. In recent years, I have appreciated excellent and engrossing books by author Simon Winchester, including *Krakatoa* and *A Crack in the Edge of the World*, which reveal the profound effects of seismic events on culture and world history.

So, when we sensed the Holy Spirit leading us to have "Unshaken!" as our theme for the May 11-13 CSM Gatlinburg Leadership Conference, it resonated strongly with me. As you might imagine, two of my favorite verses deal with this theme. Hebrews tells us that shaking is inevitable:

"He has promised, saying, 'Yet

once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.' Now this, 'Yet once more,' indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:26-28).

This word could be frightening if not for the promise that we are receiving the Kingdom which cannot be shaken, and that which is unshakable will endure all of the coming shaking. We are reminded of God's Word to the Psalmist:

"Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people from this time forth and forever" (Psalm 125:1-2).

Our hope is not that there will never be shaking; it is that we can find a "place of quiet rest, near to the

heart of God" when shaking comes. Thus far, 2016 has proven to be a year of great tumult. Even casual observers believe more shaking is ahead. When shaking happens, our natural tendency is to cry out to God and ask Him to make it stop. However, we may realize that He is in fact the One causing the shaking Himself! That can make us frightened, frustrated, or

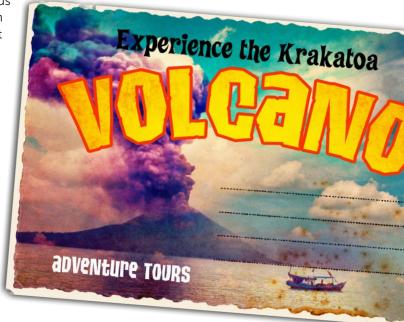
even angry until we realize that He is actually at work to reveal "that which

cannot be shaken".

At the end of the day, the Lord's work reveals reality to us. Sometimes, reality can look ugly. But if it draws us closer to Him and leads us in the way of salvation, we will find redemption and healing. He will give us "beauty instead of ashes, and the oil of joy instead of mourning." Hope is rooted, not in fantasy, but in the unshakable reality of God's covenant love and His relentless Kingdom purpose.

I heard my Dad say, "It's alright not to know, but it's not alright not to know that you don't know. If you think you know what you don't know, that's when you get into trouble."

Shaking brings revelation, if our vision is rooted in the Word and our eyes are fixed on Jesus. As we consider Him, then we receive power in the Holy Spirit to run the race that is set before us, no matter the obstacles or trembling fault lines that lie ahead. As He said, storms are coming, so let us build on the Rock of truth and not the shifting sands of fads, cliches, popular opinion, New Age fantasies, or secular humanism. None of those will endure the shaking that is to come. But the Word of our God will stand forever!



# Keynote

# BY CHARLES SIMPSON

days! Please know that what I desire to impart in this article is vital to our future and something that I personally cherish. I pray that you will too. We will approach this biblically, knowing it will help us deal with whatever life brings. Faith will not take us around hardship, but it will take us through it. And whatever you face now or in the future, you can endure and complete the Lord's purpose for your life.

Early one morning in 1965, the Lord gave me
John 15:16 where He told the disciples that He
chose them to bear fruit that would remain—
endure. I took it personally, but to do so, I would
have to become unshakeable. (I cannot say that
I have attained that by any means, but that is my
aspiration. I hope it is yours.)

# **HOW TO STAND FIRM IN UNSTABLE TIMES**



Endurance is more than talent; it is character.

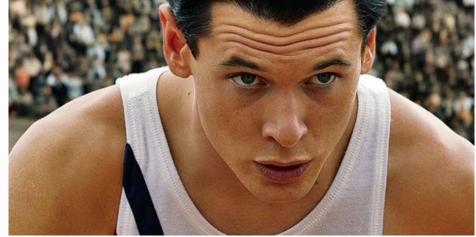
Many talented people do not endure, and many who endure are not exceptionally talented.

They just do not quit.

They keep on keeping on, unshaken by the winds of life and circumstance. The disciples of Jesus were, and are, like that—even unto death. They were not "Spring flowers" but "oaks of righteousness."

# **HEROES**

We admire those who endure extreme trials to overcome in the end. I enjoy sports and especially admire those teams whose strength increases as the game goes on and, in the end, prevail. I am inspired by those who are giving their all in the final minutes, who never give





up, never give in, and outlast their opponents. A contest is a test: a test of conditioning, discipline, focus, will, and deepest desire. It is not a beauty pageant, a talent contest, a style contest, or any other superficial tangential issue. It is about where you stand at the end; that alone

matters. Those who we call heroes understood that.

One of my heroes is Louis
Zamperini. I was introduced
to him through Laura
Hillenbrand's book, *Unbroken*.
More recently, a movie was
made based on the book.
Zamperini was a champion
track star who competed in



the 1936 Olympics and was scheduled to compete in the Tokyo games of 1940, but World War II changed his plans. He became a bombardier, crashed in the Pacific, and drifted for 47 days. Then he was captured by the Japanese and tortured for more than 2 years.

In 1949, after returning home, he met Jesus in a Billy Graham crusade held in Los Angeles. He served the Lord, shared his testimony, and finally passed away in 2014 at the age of 97. His story is an amazing account of unshaken character in the face of unimaginable conditions.



It is important to realize that Zamperini's story would not have happened without his athletic training. His unshakeable character was developed on the track. Day in and day out, he pressed his limits. If you have ever been a runner, you know the testing of lungs and legs. I can't imagine the intensity of Olympic training, but without the stamina that he developed, I doubt that he would have survived.

What we do in a crisis or extreme difficulty is predetermined by how we deal with the small daily tests that we face. If we fail to press through the small ones, what will we do with large ones?

What we do in a crisis or extreme difficulty is predetermined by how we deal with the small daily tests that we face (see Romans 5:1-5). If we fail to press through the small ones, what will we do with large ones? Today's challenge is preparation for tomorrow's victory.

The disciples that Jesus trained produced fruit that endured because they endured. They would not quit! They understood whenever difficulty came because they watched Him. He had warned and prepared them for the future. He overcame and they

overcame. Even when they failed, failure was preparation for success. Through His love, grace, and mercy, their weakness became strength and they became heroes of the faith!

# JOHN THE BAPTIST

John the Baptist is another hero. Jesus paid him exceptional honor when He said, "Greater has not been born among women." Jesus asked, "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? A man dressed in soft clothes? A prophet? Yes, more than a prophet!" (see Matthew 11:7-19). John was the fulfillment of prophecy, the forerunner of the Messiah (see Isaiah 40:3-5; Luke 1:76-80). And John fulfilled his purpose even unto death. He was not a "reed shaken by the wind." The religious political leaders feared him because he was unshakeable and unbroken.

Take note that John the Baptist was toughened by the wilderness, a most difficult environment. His diet was locusts and wild honey. His clothes were camel's hair – not off the rack but off the camel! His message was strong and uncompromising because he was strong and uncompromising. Because he spoke the truth, many people

repented and were baptized. Even our Lord submitted to be baptized by John—an unimaginable honor!

# THE THESSALONIANS

Unshakeableness was a characteristic of John the Baptist, our Lord, and the apostles; it was also a trait that they wanted their disciples to possess. We see that in the Apostle Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians, where he wrote, "Don't be soon shaken in mind or be troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter (see 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2). He is echoing the words of Jesus in John 14, "Let not your heart be troubled."

There were many heresies in Paul's days and many false "christs" (and we still have this in our time also). The enemy wanted desperately to blow the early church off course by "winds of doctrines." He wanted to confuse the believers and shake them with idle words and false teachings. The apostle's task was to establish the people in truth that had been received by witnesses of the truth. They built the churches upon "the Rock."

In Ephesians 4:14, the apostle writes, "No longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine...." Children are not yet stable; they are impressionable. When they mature, if they mature, they become stable and thoughtful, not easily swayed.

One comedian was impressed and proud when his child announced, "I want to be a doctor!" But then added, "Or a dinosaur."

My father said of one child, "He gets an idea but then it blows his brains out." When an idea or a new teaching comes along, our excitement must not overwhelm our foundation. When that happens our maturity is in question.

# WHY PEOPLE SHAKE?

- Jesus has not become their Rock.
- Their foundation has not been sufficiently tested.
- Other influences have overwhelmed their biblical knowledge.
- They have not a good sense of the history of that idea.
- Their eyes have been taken off Jesus.

I have read a lot of books over the years, and some have been a great blessing. Others have sent me back to The Bible for further review. I have heard many messages. Some have lifted me to new heights, but others have left me wondering, "Where did that come from?" And I must admit that I, too, have erred on occasions. Hopefully, my readers or hearers are established enough to judge for themselves. My aim is to build character and obedience by proclaiming tested biblical truth. If that is achieved, then remaining, enduring fruit will be there.

The fact that Christianity
has survived these 2000 years
tells us something about Jesus
and His ministry. Faith in Him
has not only survived, it has
changed the world, brought
liberty, justice, economic
growth, and most of all,
salvation! The Word of God has
established a moral standard
which has brought untold
blessings to the world. It has
done so because, regardless
of extreme testing, it is
unshakably true!

I would strongly suggest studying First Peter chapter one, and I would suggest that you review your own role models. Who do you want to be like?

"Unshaken" continues on page 14



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Discovery Channel reality TV star Andrew Zimmern is fond of saying that one of the best ways to learn a new culture is by eating their food and eating with their people. His popular long-running program, Bizarre Foods, takes Zimmern all over the world to meet people and relate with them through their cuisine and food ways.

He has discovered what may seem bizarre or distasteful to one culture is quite normal and accepted in another. In some places, live worms or ants might be a delicacy. Sheep lungs may be a comfort food your grandma would make for you in some countries. On the other hand, when Andrew visited my city of Mobile, he was shocked at the exotic flavor of fried dill pickles!

When my daughter was young, we used to watch the show together and laugh at all of the gross things that Andrew would try to eat. Then, we would report to my wife all of the crazy things that happened, which always provoked a quick, unfavorable—but hilarious—reaction! Sometimes, we still quote Andrew. For instance, a barnacle tastes like an "aquatic jellybean".

### SHAPING APPETITES

Our appetites are shaped from birth, or even, perhaps, before birth. What we grow up eating is comfortable to us. This is why it is so critical for parents to shape the appetites of their children for good, healthy, nourishing foods. Children can actually be raised to enjoy green, leafy vegetables, for example. Or they can have their appetites shaped by junk food.

This truth also translates into other realms. How are we shaping

our children's spiritual and mental appetites? How do we shape their interests? Should parents shape a child's worldview, appetites, and desires? Is such an idea healthy, or should we just leave all of that up to the kids to figure out on their own? In times of great shaking and uncertainty, how we answer these questions will be a matter of life or death for our children and grandchildren.

How are we shaping our children's spiritual appetites?

Eternal history will record that modern psychology helped to destroy millions of families and countless nations. "Experts" appeared on the scene who questioned biblical norms concerning husband-wife relationships and wisdom regarding raising children. Once tested biblical foundations were traded for novel notions of social engineering, families began to experience fracture. As the family is the basic building block of society, soon, many cultures influenced by secular humanism entered into periods of prolonged collapse.

One of the central notions of secular humanism is that everyone is their own "god". With the One True God removed from the human equation, every person becomes an independent agent and every idea or impulse, no

matter how foolish or unworkable or selfish, has equal "value".

Therefore, children are "free" to develop their own ideas about the world around them, apart from the wisdom of experienced parents or mentors. Correction is viewed as "negative", while pats on the head, winks, nods, and participation stickers train little cherubs to become narcissistic sociopaths when they get older.

God's idea for the family is different. He gives children to parents as an entrustment to be stewarded and cherished. Parents aren't primarily called to be the "buddy" to their kids, and children aren't given to be some kind of trophy or play-dolls for the parents' amusement.

# POPULARITY OR PREPARATION?

The goal of a parent is not to be popular with their kids; it is to prepare them for a life of faithfulness to God and healthy relationships with other people. Fail to do this, and you may be popular with your kids early on, but hated by them later. Be faithful to this call now, and it may anger your kids from time-to-time now, but they will love you and thank you for it later.

For example, Scripture speaks of this dynamic with a wonderful promise in Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." We see again in Hebrews regarding the godly pattern for training and discipline:

"'My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the Lord loves

He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.' If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it" (Hebrews 12:5-11).

The Lord chose Abraham to be a pioneer and a father of nations. When the Lord chose him, Abraham was an old man. He and his wife, Sarah, had no children. Natural circumstances indicated that they would

never have children. But the supernatural God is never troubled by natural limitations! What interested the Lord more was Abraham's heart and faith. God knew that Abraham wouldn't merely procreate, but that he would train his children in the ways of the Lord.

"For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him" (Genesis 18:19).

What we see in Scripture is a very proactive, strategic, consistent pattern. To fail to impart wisdom and values to children is a form of neglect, if not abuse. Too many children today are left to fend for themselves by absent or absentminded parents. I hear many GenX or Boomer parents grousing about "these kids today" and wonder, "Who do you think raised them?"

However, there is still time to impart wisdom to our children, even when they are grown. My dad is fond of saying, "Love is the bridge across which truth travels."

Likewise, our motive as parents for disciplining and training our children is rooted in love. A fully-orbed program of discipline, therefore, doesn't just include lectures or punishment, but must include consistent love, patience, kindness, demonstration, and encouragement.

### **GATEKEEPERS**

It also means that we as parents stay very informed concerning the other forces in the world seeking to influence our children and grandchildren. If you are worried about exercising "too much" influence over your kids, you can be assured that there is a multi-billion dollar entertainment and advertising industry eager to fill the void with them. There is an education system shaped by secular humanism plotting to "shipwreck" whatever teaching they've gotten from you or from your church and replace it with godless fallacies that exalt wayward living. (Thank God for many wonderful and conscientious teachers who still swim against the tide to teach truth in love.)

Parents today have some unique challenges compared to earlier days. For example, outside influences now tend to be more hostile to biblical family norms than they were just a few short decades ago. Furthermore, these influences have infinitely more gateways into your home via internet, social media, cell phone, television, gaming, Netflix, Hulu, YouTube, Pandora, radio, books, or other portals. Communication tools can be very valuable or very destructive, depending upon the content as well as the discernment of the person using them.

Plus, we've seen that even "G" rated entertainment can now feature destructive ideas concerning the occult, false religion, socialism, humanism, or New Age thought. History and

moral norms are literally being revised and re-written.

Millions of kids have been indoctrinated by seemingly innocent programs, curricula, films, books, and games.

How pro-active are you as a "gatekeeper" in your home?

What safety measures do you use to protect your kids from evil influences? Unless you live out on a rural farm or in Mayberry, USA, you probably lock your doors at night. But do you guard the other portals into your home?

One of the best ways to protect your kids against evil influence is to inoculate them with good, godly spiritual influence. People are less prone to desire or be fooled by counterfeits when they have received and tasted of that which is genuine.

The Apostle Paul understood that families face challenges in raising godly children while being surrounded with an unbelieving world. He put it this way to the Christians in Ephesus:

"'Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.' See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God" (Ephesians 5:14-21).

Families need the Holy Spirit together. We need His presence, guidance, and power. Paul says, "Be filled with the Spirit." The actual original language of this passage means, "STAY filled." How? In "speaking to one another" the Word of God, singing together,

both hymns and in the Spirit. Also, cultivating a constant attitude of gratitude to God, with grace and humility towards one another. I've found that the more I walk in the Spirit, the better able I am to walk with my family and loved ones. And, the less I am prone to desire things that lead to death.

We live in a 24/7/365 world, so "a few minutes of Jesus" once a week isn't going to cut it for your kids. Scripture says that His Word must be a constant presence for us in our homes and along the way of life:

"These words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:6-9).

# MEDITATE ON THESE THINGS

Read the Scriptures together in your home. Find a good family Bible study resource. Pray together. Take a walk together. Attend church and worship together. Watch uplifting films together. Discuss what you see and hear. Shape your kids' tastes musically and in other realms of entertainment. Don't just say, "Turn that music down!" Discuss together what that music is saying. Remember, it's not only the lyrics, but it's the spirit of the music and the lifestyles of those singing it. What spirit and values do you want imparted to your kids?

It might be really funny or cute to watch your four-year-old daughter dance around and shake her backside to a Beyonce' song, but is that really what to put into her spirit? Do you want your eight-year-old son watching sexually suggestive videos or playing senselessly violent games? The time to shape their "appetites" is now, not later.

The young Christians in the city of Philippi were very dear to Paul. He invested so much of his life and heart there. But he was confident enough in what God had done among them that he could write this:

"Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you" (Philippians 4:8-9).

Finally, remember this: the Lord is with you. He gave your children to you and He will help you to raise them. Our friend Charlotte Parker says, "The Holy Spirit helps us pray for our children." What a wonderful and comforting truth. The Lord promises, "I will contend with him who contends with you, and I will save your children" (Isaiah 49:25).

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# Outreach

# Project Orange Raising awareness about the persecuted Church



Many of us have been wearing orange wrist bands that say "Embracing the Truth with Our Lives". Those simple words are our mission here at CSM, and the band serves as a constant reminder of our brothers and sisters around the world who are being persecuted for their faith.

Wherever we go, people ask us about it, and we've gotten a tremendous amount of positive feedback about it. We use the color orange because so many Christians have been placed into prison orange jumpsuits by ISIS before being brutally murdered on-camera. For us, wearing orange is a way to identify ourselves directly with those heroes, to remember to pray for them, and to be challenged to live as boldly for the Lord as they do.

In addition to the wrist bands, CSM has produced and distributed hundreds of orange t-shirts with this same message. Again, it has sparked great interest out in communities across the United States. Our goal is not to promote a great marketing gimmick, but to raise awareness of this most critical issue. We call this effort "Project Orange".

Due to demand, we are going to be producing more wristbands and shirts with new designs. Be watching our website and store for more details! Shirts and wristbands are available now for you, your church, your business, or your family. You can also "like" our Charles Simpson Ministries Facebook Page or follow us on Twitter @ CSMinPublishing.

The Lord tells us, "Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also" (Hebrews 13:3).

**#ProjectOrange** is just one way we can do this and encourage others to do so also. A portion of our sales revenue is being donated to missionaries and groups that support persecuted Christians. 121

Continued from "Unshaken" page 7

The prophets? Apostles? Jesus Himself? If Christ is indeed in us, will we not be unshakeable?

Too many houses are built on shifting sand, waiting for some unseen storm to test their foundation. This was Jesus' concern as told in Matthew 7:24-28. The religions and political house of Israel was blown away by the Roman invasion in 70 A.D. Many other seemingly mighty nations have fallen since. The USSR was blown away in 1992. The litany is long. Sadly, each day, so many lives, families, businesses, churches, and nations are being blown away. That need not happen: we can be unshakeable. My goal is to stand with you and equip and strengthen believers for these times and the times ahead.

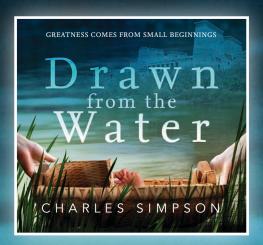
Bear in mind that movements come and go. Things are always changing, especially during this time in history. But our focus here is producing people, disciples of Jesus who are unshakeable.

We deeply appreciate you and pray for you. Would you share this article with others, especially young people? When you do, you become part of that wonderful equipping and discipling process given to us by Jesus! [21]

CHARLES SIMPSON is Editor-in-Chief of One-to-One Magazine. He ministers extensively throughout the United States and among the nations. In 2015, he celebrated 60 years of ministry.



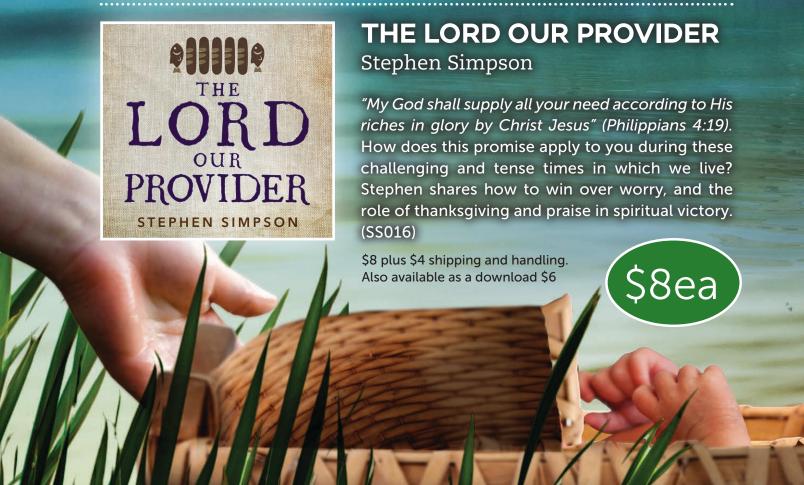
# New Audio Resources



# DRAWN FROM THE WATER

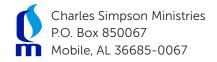
Charles Simpson

What led one of the greatest heroes of all time from obscurity to greatness? Charles teaches why we need to encounter the Lord in order to see beyond incomprehensible seasons of disappointment. It begins with an amazing rescue and concludes with three very valuable lessons for all of us. (CD198)



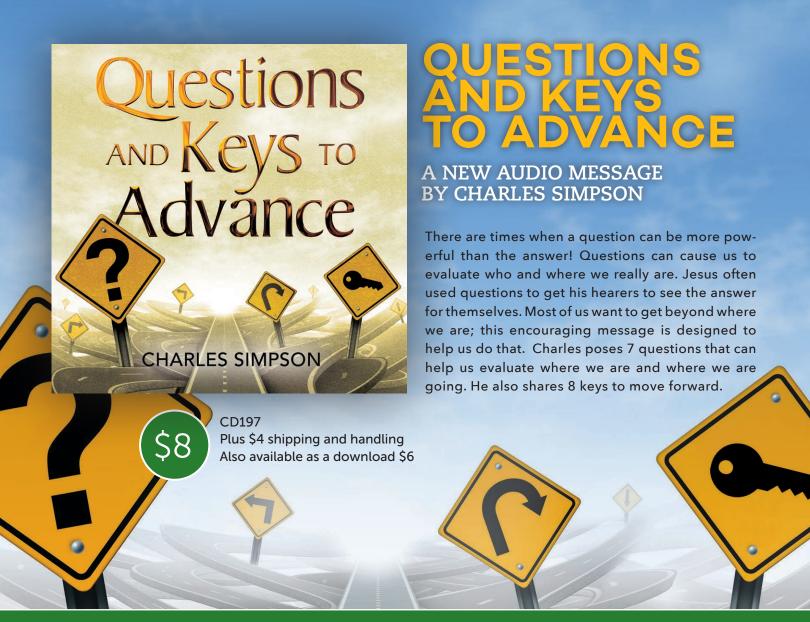
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