

UNSHAKEABLE LOVE

in Shaking Times

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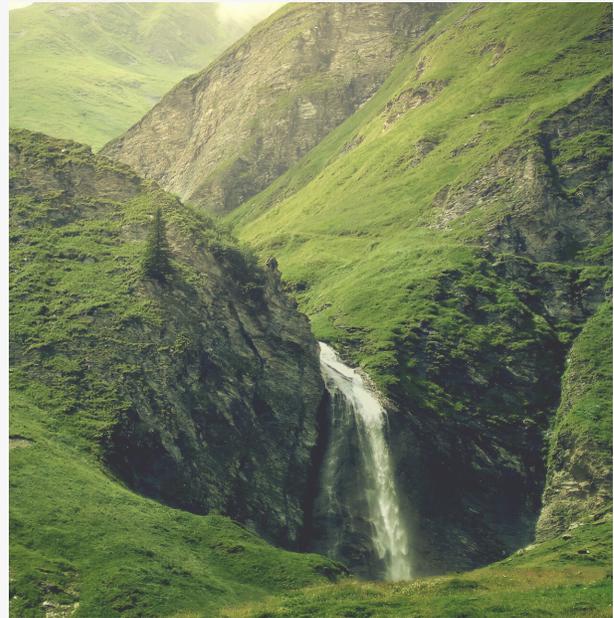
We find ourselves waiting in uncertainty. Uncertainty is part of life, isn't it? But usually it's a mix of the good, the mundane, and the hard. Will I get that job? Will he propose? Will my child get into that school? Will my husband remember to take out the trash? Right now, we are waiting in uncertainty, but it seems to be most in the hard places.

How long will we find ourselves sheltering-in-place? Will we have any sort of income when this is over? Will our children fall behind in school because of the shift to distance learning? Will I go crazy doing the umpteenth loads of dishes and laundry? Will anyone I know or love be one of the ones to get critically ill and die from COVID-19?

Four things I've learned that have helped me through waiting in uncertainty and hard places:

1. It is okay and good to grieve.
2. It is okay and good to lower and change our expectations of the new normal.
3. It is okay to ask for help and it is okay to receive help.
4. "But for now" is my favorite perspective-shifting phrase. It almost always works. I can go on and on in my head about how hard things are, and how unfair it is, I can allow myself to feel all the feelings and think all the thoughts. And at the end, I can say, "But for now." "But for now, I will choose to see the silver lining." "But for now, I will enjoy my children." "But for now, I will revel in the quiet of our nature walks." "But for now, I will hope in the Lord."

I feel so much tension right now. I feel the tension of the pediatric cancer world my family was thrown into and now the added tension of COVID-19. I feel the tension of the way life has changed twice over, and I don't know what to do with it except to bring all those feelings and thoughts to God.



The prophet Isaiah knew a thing or twenty about uncertain times, grief, and hope deferred. He lived and worked in one of ancient Israel's times of greatest upheaval and uncertainty. In all the uncertainties that came with sure exile for God's people, Isaiah was more certain of God's unshakeable love, even in shaking times.

"For though the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the Lord who has compassion on you. Isaiah 54:10.

I hope that you too, friend, will find solace in Jesus as we wait in uncertainty in these hard times and hard places.



Becca is a fiercely loving wife, mother, and friend. She and her family are members at Redeemer and have taught our church family so much through their faith as they walk with their daughter through childhood cancer.