

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, July 15, 2018

**God's Favorite Discipleship Tool
A Study of Hebrews 12:25-29**

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If you've ever experienced an earthquake or a turbulent flight, describe the experience.

Hebrews 12:25-29 helps us navigate life's shake-ups. Have someone read Hebrews 12:25-29.

Expect Change In Life

The passage says "created things" are shakable. These include relationships, finances, health, work policies, and so on.

- ❖ **Look Back:** Describe an experience when something in your life was "shaken."
- ❖ **Look Forward:** If you will have to experience a change in some area of your life in the future, what change do you think you will have the hardest time adjusting to?

Think of someone at work who can't seem to get over a policy change, or someone who has never gotten over a relationship breakup, or someone who can't abide a change at church. Answer the following questions:

- ❖ What attitudes do they express?
- ❖ What actions do they exhibit?
- ❖ What do you think they lose when they don't appropriately "process" the change?

Now let's turn the spotlight on ourselves. How successful do you think you've been in "processing" change?

Express Confidence In God Who Never Changes

Read Hebrews 12:28 again and answer the following questions:

- ❖ Define “the kingdom of God.”
- ❖ What are the ways the kingdom of God is different than life outside of the kingdom of God?
- ❖ Why is it described as “unshakable”?

What is the difference between these phrases:

- ❖ We have received the kingdom
- ❖ We are receiving the kingdom
- ❖ We will receive the kingdom

Which of those three statements best fit Hebrews 12:28? What does that mean to you?

Hebrews 12:28 tells us to be “thankful” that we are receiving an unshakable kingdom. How are the following statements about life in God’s kingdom true, and why are you thankful for them:

- ❖ God’s authority is the source of my security
- ❖ God’s commands are the source of my happiness
- ❖ God’s love for me is the source of my self-worth

Pastor Tom said when we depend on shakable things for our self-worth, happiness or security, we have to call it idolatry. How so?

In each of the following examples, explain how the person is idolatrous, and explain the consequences you expect might come to the person when the thing they depend on is “shaken.”

- ❖ A young woman builds self-worth on whether she can attract and keep the attention of men
- ❖ A man's self-esteem rises or falls on whether he has a job-- and whether he's successful in it
- ❖ A teenager makes moral choices based on what gains the approval of his/her friends

Exhibit Commitment to God through Worship/Service

What do you think it means to “worship God acceptably” in Hebrews 12:28? Does it have to do with a type of music? Is it referring to the hour we spend in the auditorium or does it mean more?

When we realize that we’re in a shakable world, does that mean we should withdraw from it all? In other words, can we love and appreciate “shakable” things even if we know they’re “shakable”? How can our citizenship in God’s unshakable kingdom help us do this?



Close with praise reports and prayer requests