

A Season of Shaking



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Hebrews 12:27-29

This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

A time of change is often a season when things are shaken. This is not necessarily bad for us as it sorts out the wheat from the chaff, the God-made from the man-made, relationship from religion and the eternal from the temporary.

John the Baptist describes Jesus as coming to gather the wheat into the barn and to burn the resultant chaff (Matthew 3:12). This is a separation of what is holy, real and genuine from what is pretence or false. It is the challenge of religion and the emergence of a family. John’s coming (and therefore that of Jesus) needs to be set in the context of Malachi 4 and Joel 2 which is the revelation of sons and daughters. It is the replacement of religion with relationship and the revelation of God’s eternal heart to show himself as Father.

In this context change should not threaten us if we are living in the spirit of sonship. We are gathered into that safe place and held ‘in Christ’, we are at home in the Father.



Whenever there is a move of God the old or the established is always threatened and the wine skin needs to change. Normally we ask ourselves the question “what should the wineskin be like” and this invariably leads us to

create a structure. Instead we should ask ourselves the question “what is the new wine”. I believe we are in a day of the Father pouring his love into his children’s hearts so we know who he is and who we are. This is the revelation we have been entrusted with. The new wine is his love poured into our hearts.

I do not believe this is purely for a season. We have had many moves of the Spirit, even in our lifetimes, and each one has waned with the church falling back into denominationalism and settling back into a religious form of duty and service. We have been refreshed for a season but the life has drained away as we have not had a container in which to hold it.

What we are experiencing now, as the Father is revealed, is a completion and fulfilment of the Trinity working together as one in the life of the church. As Father is revealed so we become sons and daughters and so the true church is built. The foundation of this has to be love; firstly us being filled with his love and secondly us letting that love flow to a broken, hurting and wounded world.

He longs for purity and holiness. Our post-modern view of Christianity does not like these words as they are taken out of context and portrayed as legalism.

Purity and holiness are not legalism but they are the heart response of someone who values relationship. They are the response of a heart so filled with love that there is no desire to walk in a way which is ultimately in the opposite direction to where Father is leading. When we respond to love there will be nothing in our hearts that wants to walk any other way than that the Father is leading us in.



In times of change it is the force of that change that rocks the foundation of our life. The Father may not cause the change but he uses it to let the chaff be blown away. He uses it to draw out the gold in our lives and let the wood, hay and stubble be consumed. He uses it to leave us more pure and holy than before the season started. He uses it to take us deeper into him. He uses it to ensure that our lives are able to bear abundant and lasting fruit. He strips more of us away in order that more of him may be revealed.

A time of change is an opportunity to re-evaluate our core values. What are the things that matter? What are the things he has given us to do?

All too often as time passes we add things to our core values, maybe good ideas, maybe a slight deviation from the good works he has given us to do, maybe a broader path rather than the narrow one he first gave us. A time of shaking is an opportunity for those things to fall away so once again we live in the purity of the revelation he has given to us. To centre ourselves on him.

Change is something we like to shy away from. We often say “change is here to stay” and there is an element of truth in that. We are encouraged to leave our ‘comfort zone’ and maintain a pioneer spirit and to pursue a vision. Yes, we need a vision, as Proverbs reminds us without a vision we perish, or cast off restraint. Is it right, though, for us leave our comfort zone (whatever that means)?

As we are planted in love we are also planted in the Father’s comfort. Comfort should become the mattress of our lives, the resting place of his



love becoming the source and root of who we are. When comfort is the foundation of our hearts love will be dominant in these times of change.

It is interesting that the writer to the Hebrews says it will be the things that **are made** which will

be removed through the shaking. Man made structures or responses will not stand as they do not have a firm foundation. The foundation for our lives is the Father’s love and therefore anything not built on that will be shaken and if it has no roots it will be removed. The stronger and deeper our roots go into love the less likely things will be uprooted and shaken out of our lives.

The kingdom of Heaven is a kingdom of love. It is not a kingdom of fear. When we live in fear we deny the power of love working in our lives and therefore we have a root system which is not secure. Fear will always lead us to look at the negatives, the what-ifs and the maybes. As we live in love so fear is driven out; the two can not exist side by side. When love comes, fear goes. If we build our lives on fear it is like the house

built on sand and when the storms come (as they will) there are no foundations to hold the building up. When we build in love and on love we are the like house built on rock. The storms may come and lash against us but we are held by foundations that go down into the strongest force in the universe – the Father's love.

The kingdom of love can not be shaken. When change comes we live in an unshakeable kingdom if we are rooted and grounded in love. Living in love will produce the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control are the natural and automatic by products of a life lived in love. No law will rise up against these as they are not the product of a life lived satisfying the law but a life lived in love where the Father's own spirit within us becomes our motivating force.

