

DISCUSSION IDEAS
UNSHAKEABLE

Hebrews 12:15-29

June 28th, 2015

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We use the term "to spiral" down into depression, bitterness, etc.

To inexperienced pilots, this is not just a term, it a very real hazard.

It is known as the "Graveyard Spiral". It happens when in the clouds or on a black night when outside references are not visible. Our inner-ear balance mechanism is not trustworthy in that situation and will lead us to lose control.

The only answer?—help from a trustworthy reference – the instruments.

- ♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: A FRIEND IS HURTING. THEY ARE READY TO GIVE UP ON GOD. THEIR PERSPECTIVE HAS BEEN TWISTED. WHAT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY?**

Do I really understand what is described in Heb. 10:26-31? Compare this to Heb. 12:17.

"We need to understand that believers can sin in such a manner as to cross a line of no return."

Do I care enough to stand between my friend and that line?

How do I do that?

If you were angry, how would you respond to advice?

How would you respond to love? How about to persistent love?

What if I am angrily rejected?

Look at John 13:13-35 – Why was this so important to Jesus?

How does prayer fit into this?

- ♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: HOW DO I BECOME PREPARED TO COUNTER BITTERNESS IN MY OWN LIFE?**

Imagine being a Jew. Detail the contrasts given in Heb. 12:18-24.

Jewish or not, if I have trusted Jesus, what does my future, my inheritance, look like?

Review John 14:1-3 and Rev. 21:9-22:5. How does this motivate me?

Do I really believe Heb. 12:25-29, that there will be serious consequences if I turn from my trust in God?

How does my putting a high value on trusted godly friends help protect me?

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♦ **REFLECTION:**

Consider the instruction in Hebrews 12:28 (HCSB):

²⁸ "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us hold on to grace. By it, we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and awe,...."

The word for serve used here means "to serve or worship but not out of compulsion. (*This word*) originally meant to work for reward, to serve. The meanings of service and worship are intertwined." ¹

On Sunday, did you catch the quote from the book "Heaven" (by Randy Alcorn)?

"Heaven is the layover, NOT the destination!"

If this world is only a speck in time, if Heaven itself is only a temporary step in our trip, what an amazing ultimate future does God have for us?

Remember, we will have been made to be one with Jesus, and so intimately united to the entire Trinity!

We are not just going to be with God. We are going to be joined with Him!!!!

How does that knowledge help us with trust, perspective, and peace, and how can that fight bitterness?

On the following page is an illustration to help keep in mind the future events in store for this world and for us.

¹Zodhiates, S. 2000, c1992, c1993. *The complete word study dictionary : New Testament* (electronic ed.) (G3000). AMG Publishers: Chattanooga, TN

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