

The New Testament Church
Kingdom Stability by Focusing on Jesus
Hebrews 12 - Pastor Paul Jehle
November 15, 2020

I We are in a spiritual race

A. *Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith* – Heb. 12:2

1. We are in a race with a great cloud of witnesses (that we often don't perceive)
 - a. The race is "set before us" – each of us is given a course to run
 - b. We are surrounded (but don't see them) by those cheering us on
2. In a race, we are to lay aside *every*
 - a. weight – burdens (pressures) of the spirit, soul and body (physical ailments)
 - b. sins – omission (to neglect) and commission (attitudes/actions against God)
3. Jesus is our example – *for the joy set before Him endured the cross*

B. *Consider Him who endured such hostility... lest you become weary and discouraged*

1. Discipline is **training** – God disciplines those He loves; using obstacles
 - a. Discipline requires focus – lay aside every weight
 - b. Discipline requires a clear conscience – confess sin and receive forgiveness
2. By definition, discipline is presently painful, but yields righteousness (**character**)
 - a. Strengthen hands which hang down (slumping of shoulders slows you down)
 - b. Feeble knees (not lifting up your feet causes you to stumble)
 - c. Straight paths for your feet, so what is lame can be healed (watch the terrain)
3. Under pressure, everything is exposed, including unnecessary weights and sin

II What to do in a time of shaking – v. 14-16

A. What should we do to remain stable in the midst of turmoil and pressure?

1. *Pursue **peace** with all people* – especially when the enemy's goal is to divide
 - a. Masks have become a real tool of division
 - b. Remember that peace is being respectful to others...
2. *And **holiness**, without which no one will see the Lord* – right with God and man
3. These two goals can help us avoid
 - a. "falling short of the grace of God" – working in our own strength
 - b. "a root of bitterness" – disappointments with God or others

B. We are surrounded with encouragement – like the walls of a secure room...

1. Mount Zion – the heavenly Jerusalem – those who have gone before us
2. Angels surround us and cheer us on, though we don't communicate with them
3. Other believers on earth (that are registered in heaven) are to cheer us on
4. God the Father, Jesus the Son and Mediator, and the Spirit who speaks to us

C. What does the Spirit say about why He brings shaking? *To remove those things that are shaken... that the things which cannot be shaken shall remain* – v. 27-29

1. The Kingdom of God – the reign of God in our lives and in the earth is constant
2. Those who prepare for tornadoes have a safe room – ours is in prayer!
2. Let us serve God acceptably with reverence and fear...