

The Making is in the Shaking

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Hebrews 12:26-27 - At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

We are in the middle of a “shaking.” Everything that was normal and predictable has been removed.

- In the midst of uncertainty, we ask a lot of questions. I believe we are asking the wrong questions. The essence of our thoughts and questions is: how can I restore what was removed?
- What if God, even though He is not the cause of this crisis, is wanting this to be a shaking in our lives where everything that can be shaken will be removed and only that which is unshakeable will remain?
- What if God wants to give birth to something better than what came before?

So often, in order for God to make something in us, He has to shake some things out of us. A “shaking” is the removal of everything that keeps us from being unshakeable.

Things will return to some form of normal.

- What that looks like, I don’t know.
- When that happens, I don’t know.

But it’s not just about when we come back, it’s how we come back.

- Will we be hungrier for God?
- Will we be hungrier to reach people?
- Will we be more full of faith?
- Will we be more sacrificial servers?
- Will we be greater givers?
- Will we be more ready to engage in the vision God has for Victory Family Church (or your local church)?

Shaking is NOT:

- God causing tragedy in your life
- God putting sickness or disease on you

Two things about a “shaking”:

1.) Shaking Reveals Us. It exposes our flaws and weaknesses.

Matthew 7:24-27 - “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

Everything looks good in the sunshine. Knowing about God rather than knowing God works in the sunshine. **But it’s not about how you look in the sunshine, it’s about how you stand in the storm.** It took a storm to reveal what foundation the houses were built on. Don't just build a good-looking house, have the right foundation.

Wrong foundations are (we all have them):

- Financial success
- Job, house, car
- Maximizing Pleasure
- Entertainment & Distraction
- Screen time
- Living for weekends/evenings
- Travel
- Culture & Popular Opinion

When God builds a house, He builds it for the storm. Only God’s Word remains unshakable.

2.) Shaking Refines Us.

As we train, our conditioning is refined. I wonder if we might be so consumed with returning to normalcy that we might miss the opportunity to be better conditioned.

It’s one thing to say you have faith. It’s another thing to exercise it.

It’s one thing to say we love people. It’s another to actually love people.

James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James says, “You want to be complete? You want to be all God has created you to be?”

- Don’t quit when things get hard

- Don't be so distracted by the difficulty of what you're going through that you miss what God is making in you.
 - He is making you mature.
 - He is making you complete, lacking nothing.
 - Not perfect, but whole.

Right now, God wants to take the evil that is the coronavirus and redeem it into a shaking that makes us more like Him.

So often, in order for God to make something in us, He has to shake some things out of us. **If God is going to make us more of how He's always intended us to be, a shaking is required.**

- What has this shaking revealed in your life?
- How might this shaking refine you?
- Know God
- Draw closer to God in daily prayer, worship, Bible, etc.
- Find Freedom
- Time to find freedom from your past.
- Time to stop flirting with sin and distractions.
- Discover Purpose
- Make a decision in your heart to go "all in" with God & His plan for your life
- Make an Impact
- Time to start serving or giving
- Time to make Jesus the Lord of your life