

A. SHAKABLE

- As we consider how to live in a New Year which will inevitably involve Waiting On God, we will no doubt find ourselves shaken many times on many levels.
- In every new season, change will come. Some of the things we have been depending upon we will no longer find to be dependable.
- Jewish believers in the early church faced big changes and challenges. They had been trained to relate to God through the Old Covenant grid of performance.
- They needed the loving but painful discipline of the Father. It took a long time to shake off old mindsets now obsolete and fix their eyes on Jesus instead. (Heb 12:1-3)
- Their former reference point was Mt Sinai and the Law. With the inauguration of the New Covenant, their new focus was to be Jesus and His work on the cross at Mount Zion: Heb 12:22a, 24-29 ESV -- But you have come to Mount Zion... and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ 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, ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.
- The Lord's voice shook the earth when He spoke to the children of Israel at Mount Sinai. Yet they refused to listen instead of welcoming and receiving His voice. (Ex 19)
- In Christ today, He speaks to us by the Holy Bible and by the Holy Spirit that lives within us. As we heed His Word, we experience transformation and security.
- We must receive and believe His Word and not refuse to listen! (v. 25) Let's let God train our faith eyes and our spiritual ears in the long-term process leading to stability: Ps 32:8-9-- I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Do not be like the horse *or* like the mule, *which* have no understanding, which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you.
- In addition to God's Word, He also uses waiting, discipline and other difficulties to remove our reliance upon undependable, shakable things.
- We are now united with Christ, but we retain remnants of our fleshly nature. For this reason, we continue to rely upon shakable things that can fail us such as:
 - Mindsets – Beliefs or convictions that are not consistent with the Word of God: 2 Cor 10:5 NIV – We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take every captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ
 - People – Giving too much weight to the actions, opinions, or approval of others: John 2:24 AMP -- Jesus, for His part, did not entrust Himself to them, because He knew all *people* and understood the superficiality and fickleness of human nature
 - Activities – Anywhere you invest your finite time including work, hobbies, ministry, volunteering, travel, fitness: John 5:19 ESV -- "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

- Material Things – Money, clothes, houses, furnishings, jewelry, cars, boats or anything that we own or long to possess that holds power over us: Matt 6:19-20 NLT -- Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.
- All of these things are gifts from God and none of them are intrinsically bad. But it is important to remember that they are all temporal and subject to loss or failure.
- We must find our security in the unshakable -- things that never fail us whenever we are called to waiting, change or hardship: Isaiah 54:10 NLT -- For the mountains may move and the hills disappear, but even then my faithful love for you will remain. My covenant of blessing will never be broken," says the LORD, who has mercy on you
- LISTENING EXERCISE:
*Father, please give me Your insight, revelation and wisdom in my shaky places:
 Where in my life am I experiencing insecurity?*

Where can I feel the instability of shaking going on?

What things are swaying me and taking the place of listening to You such as:

-- Basing my wellbeing on how my people are doing:

-- Driven by the world or my flesh to go after goals that are not initiated by You:

-- Valuing material things inappropriately:

-- Remaining in/returning to old, obsolete things when You've called me to newness:

B. UNSHAKEBLE

- The only unshakable things in life are found in God, His Word and His character. He will always be who He says He is and always do what He says He'll do: Ps 89:34 NLT -- I will not break my covenant; I will not take back a single word I said.
- While we wait, we will either hang onto the shakable things that can let us down or cling to that which never changes and never disappoints: Heb 10:23 NLT -- Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.

- Throughout Scripture we see God make promises to His people to help them stay strong and true as they wait for Him to fulfill His plan for their lives:
 - Jacob valued God's blessing while his twin brother Esau did not. (Heb 12:16) The Lord said He would be with Jacob and keep the promises He'd made: Gen 28:15 NIV -- I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.
 - Joshua was the man the Lord chose to defeat the enemies living in the Promised Land. Here is his testimony: Josh 21:45 NLT -- Not a single one of all the good promises the LORD had given to the family of Israel was left unfulfilled; everything he had spoken came true.
 - Solomon built the temple that God promised to His people: 1 Kings 8:56 -- Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses.
- When we take God's Word to heart to be our source of security, we will find that it is completely reliable! We will live to see and testify about His unshakable promises.
- Remember that the promises of God will surely be kept even when it takes longer than you think it should: 2 Peter 3:9-10 NAS -- But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief...
- Despite the timing, the principles laid out in Scripture will always be true and will never fail. In this way they contain the promise of God: Is 55:11 AMP -- My word be which goes out of My mouth; It will not return to Me void (useless, without result), Without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it.
- "There is a false way to claim the promises of God. There are those who twist the Scriptures and claim things that God never meant them to claim. But the acts of the foolish should not rob the wise of the treasures God has in His promises." (W. Wiersbe)
- When we meditate on the Word and allow God to speak into our lives, a true promise of God will be consistent with His nature and with all of Scripture.
- Listening to God and relying on His promises will provide us with the unshakable foundation we need for our short- and long-term issues.
- This is one of the greatest ways that we can experience the Lord's goodness in times of waiting, change and suffering.
- Let's be sure to keep a written record of the promises we receive from Him by making a list either in our journals or in a separate spot for easy access.
- The handout "Tools & Techniques: Promise Page" will give you a place to collect your promises. You may want to start more than one page! (each child, issue, etc.)
- TESTIMONY
- Insights:

C. PERSONAL APPLICATION

- ONE THING

- The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

- PONDER THE TRUTH

Which verse or principle stood out to you this week? Write it below taking some time to review it often. Be still in God's presence, alert for new insights. Record them here.

- PROCESSING THE TRUTH

Prayerfully consider the Listening Exercises from this lesson. Ask the Spirit to guide you into a deeper understanding of the truth and to reveal any specific faith steps He is calling you to take. Write down your insights.