A. HAUS KORNERSTONE

FAITH

Anchoring Your Life in What Cannot Be Shaken

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When the answer has to wait

A HYPOTHETICAL SCENE

It’s 6:12 in the morning. The kitchen is still dark, and you’ve already checked your phone twice. Yesterday you learned that the company where you work is cutting positions. Your manager said you’d hear more on Friday. It’s Tuesday. You open the calendar and see that the mortgage is due next week.

You try to pray. The only words that come are, “Lord, I don’t know what I’m going to do.” Then the kettle clicks off, someone needs the bathroom, and the day keeps moving.

There are mornings when you have to get dressed and go about your business while part of you is still sitting with what you heard yesterday. You can believe that God is with you and still feel your stomach tighten when the phone rings. The question is how to live this day with God while you wait for an answer you need.

The kingdom we are receiving

Hebrews 12:28 (New International Version) says, “since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful.” The verse goes on to call us to worship God with reverence and awe.

Earlier in the chapter, the writer recalls the fear Israel experienced at Mount Sinai, where the people heard God’s voice and trembled. Then the writer describes where believers have come through Jesus. They have come to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, and to Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant. The passage urges them to listen to God. It says that what can be shaken will be removed and what cannot be shaken will remain.

Notice the word receiving. God gives us a place in his kingdom through Jesus. We can thank him for that even on a morning when there is very little else we feel ready to thank him for. His reign and our place with him are secure, even while we face the very real possibility that life as we know it will change.

What trust looks like before Friday

By lunchtime, you may have written three versions of an email to your manager. You want to know whether your job is safe. That is a fair question. You can ask what your manager is able to share and when you can expect an update. Then you can call someone you trust and tell them what happened. Saying it out loud may help you hear which parts are facts and which parts are fears about what could happen.

Trust can look like taking twenty minutes to review what’s due and what you have available. It can look like asking a friend to sit with you while you do it. And it can look like closing the laptop afterward and eating lunch, because you have done what you can with the information you have today.

You may still check your phone too often that afternoon. When you catch yourself, take a moment to pray the same honest prayer you prayed in the kitchen. You can add one sentence if you have it in you. “Lord, help me give my attention to what’s in front of me for the next hour.”

I want you to hear this gently. Some of us are so accustomed to being the person others depend on that we feel we owe everyone an answer before we have one. There is freedom in telling someone, “I’ll know more on Friday. I’m concerned, and I could use your prayers.” You can let someone care for you while the situation is still unresolved.

Giving thanks while you wait

If gratitude feels difficult today, begin with something you can name honestly. Thank God for the friend who answered. Thank him for the few minutes you had to think before you replied to the email. If all you can say is, “Jesus, thank you that I can come to you with this,” let that be your prayer.

Hebrews also calls us to worship with reverence and awe. In the middle of an ordinary day, that might mean putting the phone down long enough to read the passage slowly. Give God your attention for a few minutes. Remember who is speaking and who has made a way for you to come near.

A practice for today

Friday may bring the answer you hoped for, or it may bring a decision you'll need help facing. When that day comes, you can bring the news to the same God you spoke to in the kitchen. For now, you have Tuesday and the next thing you can do with it.

Take five minutes and write three short lines.

1. **Name what you know.** Write down what has actually happened.
2. **Name what you fear.** Put into words what you're afraid might happen next.
3. **Choose one thing you can do today.** It might be making a call, asking for help, or taking a break before you make a decision.

Read the three lines back to God in your own words. Then give the third line a place in your day. If it's a call you need to make, decide when you'll make it. When you find yourself trying to settle the rest of the week in your head, come back to that one action.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you know what has changed and what I'm afraid might happen next. Help me speak honestly with you and receive help where I need it. Give me wisdom for the decision in front of me and patience for the answers I'm waiting on. Thank you that I belong to you and that your kingdom cannot be shaken. Amen.

Reflection question

What answer are you waiting for, and what is one thing you can do with God's help while you wait?

Scripture reading · Hebrews 12:18–29, New International Version