

First Light Herald

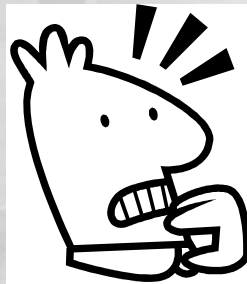


J E F F & C E R I S E W E L T E R

C o n f i d e n c e S h a k e n ?

F Y I

- Nothing takes God by surprise. He sees the end from the beginning.
- God has promised to be with us in trouble.
- God is love and love NEVER fails!
- This life is just the beginning!



It's an uncomfortable thing to have your confidence shaken, but when you find your confidence in God messed with it can be the MOST core shaking experience. There isn't a soul on the earth today or in the past that hasn't had this experience, but it doesn't have to be or stay that way.

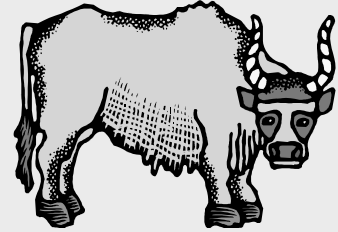
*Hebrews 10: 35 **Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.** 36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. 37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*

*2 Corinthians 1: 9 **But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:** 10 Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us.*

*2 Thessalonians 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2 That ye be not soon **shaken** in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.*

C o n f i d e n c e S h a k e n ? c o n t i n u e d

It takes faith to believe in an unseen God. That's why the Israelites had Aaron make a golden calf to worship. How convenient to be able to look at something and focus on something in order to worship it, but our God is so much bigger than any natural representation it clearly is a sin to try to box Him into a stone figurine. He counts it so offensive for us to do so; He gave us a commandment forbidding us to make a representation of anything living into an idol to bow down to.



So we are back to faith. Faith comes by hearing His voice, not by keeping commandments. He wants to have an intimate relationship with us, not a slave to overlord relationship. He wants freewill offerings, not fear based sacrifices.

*Where is your
faith, in the
natural or in the
word of God?*

I honestly believe after reading most of the first five books in the Holy Bible, that God gave us them just to show us how impossible it was to keep them. Speaking for myself, I get overwhelmed when I read the book of Leviticus. I don't know how Aaron was able to do half of what God required. I am so grateful that I don't have to keep all of those laws. I know it's outside my "gifts and talents" range. About the only thing I can do is acknowledge how much I needed, need and will continue to need a Savior; a Messiah.

This world is really messed up right now, but the old saying that goes, "It's always darkest before the dawn" really applies today. God looked over the chaos, void, and great expanse of darkness and said, "Light be". He didn't look out and say, "Gee, it's dark out there". He called those things which were not as though they existed. Because He put faith in His words, He got what He said. Even He must walk by faith. It is impossible to please Him without faith. Everything we obtain from Him is obtained using faith in Him and in His word. We can have faith in His written, spoken and also living word. He does everything with words!

So I'm sitting here typing words of eternal truth to lift you up and encourage you. Don't be **shaken** by the **shaking** that's going on. It's also part of His plan. He's shaking all the junk that can be **shaken**!

SHAKEN CONTINUED



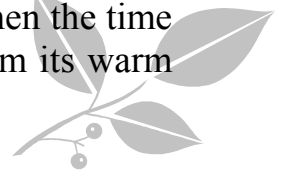
Hebrews 12: 25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: 26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. 27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: 29 For our God is a consuming fire.

He warned us through His son of many things about to come on the earth.

*Matthew 24 3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? 4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. 6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 **For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.** 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows. 9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. 11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*

“Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.”

Think of a woman in labor. Men, you’re going to have to stretch your imaginations. The body of a woman was created to hold, nurture and grow a baby. When the time was fulfilled it would then begin the process of expelling the baby from its warm



S H A K E N C O N T I N U E D

hiding place. Hormones are triggered that cause muscles to begin to contract. The woman's body works to bring forth a child. So it is with this world. The closer the Lord's return is the more the signs we will see that he is about to be "born" back into the earth. All the junk must be expelled and all that will be left will be a healthy son!



Romans 8: 19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

“For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

Romans 8:22” We are the sons and daughters of God that all of creation groans and travails in pain over. Soon we shall know that final salvation, the salvation and glorification of our bodies. It's coming, but not before our confidence is shaken. Everything that is happening is all part of the process. It's going to happen and though it won't be comfortable, (Childbirth is NOT about comfort) it is a necessary part of the manifestation. So rejoice, look into the sky and rejoice that you are a believer. You wouldn't be reading this if you weren't. You would be blind and going about your own way, doing your own thing oblivious to the work of God!

Prayer: How to Focus Yours

We are living in perilous times. I know you've read those words more than a few times if you read our newsletters. Don't get weary in hearing those words. They are meant to be alerts for your soul. Just knowing that we're on high alert can help keep us in a state of readiness.



P R A Y E R



So what are we supposed to be ready for? We're supposed to be ready for the "good fight of faith". We are supposed to be "instant in season" or in other words, ready for whatever comes our way. We are NOT supposed to be overtaken in faults and temptations, but prepared for every GOOD work. Storms are coming, the Lord foretold us of such things, but when we are founded on the bedrock of His word we won't be moved by those

storms.

Time here on planet earth is very temporary. This time and this place is the battle ground where God decided WE would destroy the works of the adversary. Our battle is to be light in darkness. We in Christ are able to do awesome things, but only if we keep our eyes on God, His Word and then walk what we hear to do from God.

Each one of us has gifts and callings from God for specific jobs. Now don't get religious when you read that sentence. Some folks visualize crawling before an altar or traveling to Africa to suffer great loss in order to work for God. You may or may not be called to Africa to preach the gospel, but not *everyone* is called to that job. You may be called to feed the poor, to pray, or to give to those who do go to Africa. Perhaps you are called to care for widows? Maybe you are called as an intercessor? You could be a mother called to focus on her children and her home?



You may be a grandmother who is called to encourage someone younger. We are all to be living "epistles" or letters to those who do NOT know the Lord. The main thing ALL of us are called to do is pray without ceasing. That doesn't mean you have to spend every waking second in prayer, but to consider everything we say as a message to God knowing He is ever present by His Spirit.

We are the BODY of Christ and that means we are supposed to be working in unity to manifest God's will on the planet. It means we are supposed to lay down our own agendas and know that if we will hear His voice and begin to do what it is we hear Him say, we will begin to see the manifestation of His power once again on the planet. Not one person can sit on the sidelines observing! Christianity isn't an observer sport but a life worth living for God!