

The Marks of the Kingdom Person

Hebrews 12:28

“Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude (grace), by which we may offer to God an (i.e. our) acceptable service with reverence and awe (the fear of the Lord).”

The number one question on the minds of most Christians is “What is the will of God for my life?” This verse speaks to every person who has received the kingdom of God and gives precise instructions for us. This verse explains how to live in light of entering what the writer of Hebrews calls *an unshakable kingdom*.

I. We show favor to others.

“Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken ... let us show gratitude (grace) ...”

How have we entered the kingdom of God? Do you deserve it? Have you earned it? No. It’s of grace. The writer of Hebrews has taken twelve chapters to show God granting you access to Him via grace. Now, because of an understanding of His grace in my life, I must live consistently with my calling.

A. You will never behave properly until you believe properly.

This is not only a Scriptural principle, “as a man thinks in his heart, so is he” (Prov. 23:7), it is also a truth of something that you intuitively know. We become in life what we believe in the mind.

B. When you believe God shows you unconditional favor, you give unconditional favor.

“I therefore implore you to walk in a manner worthy of your calling” (Eph. 4:1). “Worthy” is the Greek word from which we get the English word axiom –“something that is self-evident.” We are to live in such a manner that people know we are graced. Graced people live gracious lives.

II. We enjoy freedom ourselves.

“Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken ... by which we may offer to God an acceptable service ...” At first glance this portion of the verse sounds like the opposite of freedom. However, I believe the writer of Hebrews is the Apostle Paul and this verse is similar to Romans 12:1. “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.” In other words, because of God’s grace in Christ you ARE accepted; you ARE holy; you ARE His—now live in this freedom. We offer to God our acceptable service because we are accepted. Be. Do. Go. Relax and be free.

III. We have fear of God.

“Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken ... [live] with reverence and awe.”

This reverence and awe is what the Bible calls “the fear of the Lord.” It is the beginning of wisdom. When you have the fear of God, you will never have the fear of man. God has your respect and awe. The fundamental problem is that we need other people (for ourselves) more than we love other people (for the glory of God). We must learn to need people less and love people more. Instead of looking for ways to manipulate others, we will ask God what our duty is toward them. This “other-person” perspective does not come naturally for any of us, but to be others-focused is truly freeing.

A. The word fear is much broader in its biblical sense than in modern language. It includes being afraid, but it extends to being awed by, controlled by, and worshipping or needing someone.

B. The fear of man is generic, not specific. It includes men, women and children. It is the assumption that every person in your life is capable of controlling your life more than God.

C. In short, the fear of man is replacing God with a person. It is idolatry and will destroy your life.

We can learn to be content in life because of who we are by the grace of God. This is to fear God.