



The Word at Work

Strengthen Your Stakes to Lengthen Your Cords

Reading the Word

Key Scriptures: Isaiah 54:1-3

Key Points:

Hebrews 12:25-29

God is shaking things in this recent wind of his Spirit – but it is so that we will be left only with that which cannot be shaken, that which is part of God’s eternal kingdom

This is why we can be thankful and worship (v.28) – even if the blowing of this wind is scary and uncomfortable at times.

The key thing is that we listen to what God is saying through the shaking – and don’t resist him (v.25)

One of the things that God is saying to us through this wind is that we are to strengthen our stakes:

Isaiah 54:1-3

If we want to bear more spiritual children (new birth) then we should rejoice (not mope) and enlarge the place of our tent.

We do this first by strengthening our stake. This is not to turn us inward but because we want to grow outward. We strengthen the stakes in order to lengthen the cords – and so increase.

What does it mean to strengthen our stakes?

It will mean different things for different people but something it will mean for all of us relates to:

1. **Purpose** – we are increasingly clear on the vision for his church that God has given to his appointed leaders to pass on to his people. We need to own the vision. Where there is more than one vision there is di-vision.
2. **Principles** – we become increasingly clear and committed to the pattern that God has laid down for building his house (Ex.25:8-9). These will be taught again and re-established over the coming year.
3. **People** – we are convinced that God has joined us to this local church family, and to its leaders, to build according to this purpose and by these principles. We are committed to one another as the family of God involved in building his house together.

In other words, **we need to be clear on what we are building, how we are building it and who we are building it with.**

Then we will have a tent/house like that prophesied by Isaiah:

Look upon Zion, the city of our festivals; your eyes will see Jerusalem, a peaceful abode, a tent that will not be moved; its stakes will never be pulled up, nor any of its ropes broken.
(Isaiah 33:20)

Doing the Word

Discuss together how we can strengthen our stakes and begin to do what you can do to make sure that your stakes are strong.

Trevor Lloyd 21st June 2009