

Unhooked (Hebrews 12:28)



This morning as I woke to the continuous barking of the neighborhood dogs, let's just say, I did not wake up happy. The problem is, this is not unusual. They were barking when I went to bed, they bark on and off (more on than off) during the day, and here I am on Sunday morning, waking to barking dogs again. You can imagine my mood. It wasn't pretty, no matter how much "beauty rest" I'd just had.

As I stumbled out of bed, I was muttering under my breath about the dogs, and then I noticed that my bracelet had become unhooked overnight.

I had to laugh.

The picture was perfect, and the Lord was speaking loudly. You see, my bracelet is called, "Gratitude" and my attitude of gratitude had definitely become unhooked! Certainly unhinged from what it should have been on this beautiful Sunday morning.

I love that the Lord reminds us quickly of what it means to walk in fellowship with Him. We can't be "unhooked" from His Spirit and expect life to be filled with joy and happiness. The very reason I wear this bracelet is to be a constant reminder of all that I have to be grateful for. If nothing else, I am thankful to know the Lord God, I have been purchased by the blood of His Son, and I have been given the Holy Spirit to convict, to confirm and to guide me. My hope is that you can say the same thing.

Life may present us with barking dogs, with various and sundry trials, as James warns us of, but this we can know, when we *know the Lord God* our responses to those tribulations can be (and should be) different! We can face the day with gratitude rather than anger. We can offer praise instead of mutterings. God can change how we react to the things that come our way and help our response be better through the fruit of His Spirit at work within us.

I don't know what's going on in your world today, perhaps situations have you unhinged. Just know this, it only takes a moment to fasten on to the power of the Holy Spirit, just as it only took a moment to fasten "Gratitude" back together. We have much to be grateful for because of our Lord God. Latch on to Him and enjoy His peace in the process.

Hebrews 12:28 says,

**"Therefore since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken
let us show gratitude
by which we may offer to God an acceptable service
with reverence and awe."**

Father, thank You for the quick reminder that not only was my bracelet unhooked this morning, but so was my fellowship with Your Spirit. Praise You for being a God of grace and compassion that blesses us so. Thank You for providing a kingdom which cannot be shaken, and as we submit ourselves to You that You are able to change our perspective. As Hebrews says, may we not just speak gratitude, but SHOW gratitude, as we offer only that which is acceptable service to You, the Living God, with reverence and awe. In Christ's name. Amen