

DON'T REFUSE GOD

HEBREWS 12:25-29

BACKGROUND: This is the last of five warnings in Hebrews. The first is 2:13, the second is 3:7-19, the third is 6:4-8, and the fourth is 10:26-31. These warnings are probably given to those who are intellectually aware of Jesus but have not trusted in Him for their salvation. With saving faith comes rest (trust) in God's promises, and the believer is filled with awe and reverence for what God has done. Returning to his impoverished slave-like existence should not even be a consideration for him.

WHO HAS SPOKEN THROUGH HIS SON. "God spoke on earth at Sinai in the sense that He spoke through angels who had been sent by Him. He speaks from heaven in that He speaks through His glorified son." Kenneth S. Wuest, Word Studies in the New Testament, Volume II: Hebrews, p. 230. Now the final warning is to accept the better covenant and trade a heart of unbelief for a new heart of faith. (**Hebrews 12:25, Hebrews 1:1, 2, fn 1:1, 2, Hebrews 8:7-13, fn 8:8-12, Ezekiel 36:25-27, fn 36:25-27, Ephesians 2:5-10, fn 2:8, 9**) *How did you listen to God's Son and the New Covenant at your salvation?*

WHO WILL AGAIN SPEAK THROUGH HIS SON, whose final judgment will be on every soul who has ever lived. The Old Covenant's earthly warning was terrible, but the New Covenant's heavenly warning is far greater. However, the only sin that will send you to hell on Jesus' great judgment day is unbelief. It is the unbeliever who will not receive eternal life with Jesus. Hell-bent unbelief is not comprised of momentary flashes of doubt, but a fixed attitude of pride in which the unbeliever determines the fate of his soul. (**Hebrews 12:26, 27, fn 12:27-29, II Peter 3:10-14 fn 3:10, 11, Matthew 24:42-44, fn 24:40-42, Matthew 16:27, fn 16:27, Revelation 20:11-15, fn 20:12-15**) *How could you help your unbelieving family members come to a saving faith?*

WHO NOW SPEAKS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT. Unlike, under the Old Covenant, I can now take time to experience the continuous indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching me and giving me His joy, His love, and His peace. Realizing that His holiness is a consuming fire, I am filled with reverence, awe, and thankfulness that I am God's child. I belong in His kingdom and I can come into His presence. (**Hebrews 12:28, 29, fn 12:29, Hebrews 4:14-16, fn 4:16, John 14:15-21, 25-27, fn 14:15, 16, Galatians 5:22, 23, fn 5:22, 23, Romans 8:14-16, fn 8:14-17**) *How can your time spent with the Holy Spirit and the Living Word be both reverent and awesome?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?