

Heart Matters
Hebrews 3:7-19

Getting Started

- ❖ What causes you to doubt, grumble, or complain in your relationship with God?

Key Ideas for Discussion

The Command: Heed His Voice (vv. 7-11)

The Encouragement: Hold Each Other Accountable (vv. 12-14)

The Warning: Hardened Hearts Hinder Rest (vv. 15-19)

Takeaway Truth: Persistence proves the presence of faith.

Digging Deeper (Read the sermon text again and discuss the following questions.)

- ❖ Do you find yourself with an appropriate level of fear when you think about your eternal future? What are some ways in which we can wake up from our complacency?
- ❖ How does this passage help you see that effort and striving are good and necessary parts of the Christian life? What are some ways in which you can “fight” for your faith today?
- ❖ Spend time reflecting on “the reality that [you] had at the start,” to which the author of Hebrews refers in verse 14. What is the significance of the word “if” in this verse?
- ❖ The perseverance of the saints is one of the most comforting doctrines in all of Christian theology. How might it help you and others to endure in the faith?
- ❖ In what ways is the divine inspiration and living character of Scripture tied to perseverance in the faith? How does the author of Hebrews use Scripture to spur his audience forward toward God’s eschatological rest?
- ❖ In what ways do you, like Israel, presume on God’s kindness? Do you expect God to grant you tomorrow? Would today look any different in your relationship with the Lord if you knew it was your last?

Apply It!

- ❖ In what practical ways can you encourage brothers and sisters in your church to persevere in the faith? Identify other places in Scripture that show us how Christians can exhort one another.
- ❖ The author of Hebrews argues that one of the reasons Israel fell away was because their hearts were hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. Is there any sin in your life that you entertain and refuse to put to death? Are you at total war with your sin, or do you pick and choose your battles? Explain.

Think About It!

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The author quotes from Psalm 95 and identifies its words as those which were spoken by the Holy Spirit. The OT is conceived of as the written word of God. Indeed, what was spoken by David so long ago speaks afresh to the author's generation. The old covenant is obsolete, but the OT Scriptures continue to be the living voice of God. Both the readers addressed in Hebrews and we must hear God's voice with faith. We should beware of hardening our hearts against God. A rebellious person puts the Lord to the test, showing that he doesn't know God since he doesn't know God's saving ways. (Thomas Schreiner)