

Hebrews 3:7-19 Tender Hearted Or Tough Hearted Towards God?
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Intro: Warning Signs become more dramatic as the danger becomes more severe.

Perhaps the most critical point in a person's life is when they feel the call of God and are deciding whether or not to accept His gift of salvation.

1. The Inspiration of Scripture.

Hebrews 3:7 (HCSB) ⁷ Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: Today, if you hear His voice,

(Quotation of Psalm 95)

2 Peter 1:21 (ESV) ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2. The Illustration of Israel's Past.

Hebrews 3:7-11 (HCSB) ⁷ Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: Today, if you hear His voice,

⁸ do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the desert,

⁹ where your fathers tested Me, tried [Me], and saw My works

¹⁰ for 40 years. Therefore I was provoked with this generation and said,

“They always go astray in their hearts, and they have not known My ways.”

¹¹ So I swore in My anger, “They will not enter My rest.”

Exodus 17:1-2 (HCSB) ¹ The entire Israelite community left the Wilderness of Sin, moving from one place to the next according to the Lord's command.

They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

² So the people complained to Moses: “Give us water to drink.” “Why are you complaining to me?” Moses replied to them. “Why are you testing the Lord?”

Exodus 17:7 (HCSB) ⁷ He named the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites complained, and because they tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

Luke 16:31 (HCSB) ³¹ “But he told him, ‘If they don’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

3. The Instructions for those who hear the gospel. Hebrews 3:12-14

3a. The Exhortation Hebrews 3:12 (HCSB) ¹² Watch out, brothers, so that there won’t be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart that departs from the living God.

3b. The Encouragement Hebrews 3:13 (HCSB) ¹³ But encourage each other daily, while it is still called today, so that none of you is hardened by sin’s deception.

3c. The Evidence Hebrews 3:14 (HCSB) ¹⁴ For we have become companions of the Messiah if we hold firmly until the end the reality that we had at the start.

4. The Issue of Unbelief

Hebrews 3:15-19 (HCSB) ¹⁵ As it is said: Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.

¹⁶ For who heard and rebelled? Wasn’t it really all who came out of Egypt under Moses?

¹⁷ And with whom was He “provoked for 40 years”? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert?

¹⁸ And to whom did He “swear that they would not enter His rest,” if not those who disobeyed?

¹⁹ So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

Jude 1:5 (HCSB) ⁵ Now I want to remind you, though you know all these things: the Lord, having first of all saved a people out of Egypt, later destroyed those who did not believe;

(We all live our lives by belief and faith: driving over bridges, taking a prescription, etc. the fatal failure is when we will not have faith in God)

5. The Immediacy of the Invitation.

Hebrews 3:7-8 (HCSB) ⁷ Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: **Today**, if you hear His voice,
⁸ do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the desert,

Hebrews 3:13 (HCSB) ¹³ But encourage each other daily, while it is still called **today**, so that none of you is hardened by sin's deception.

Hebrews 3:15 (HCSB) ¹⁵ As it is said: **Today**, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.

(D.L. Moody, "Go Home and think about what I have said." Changed invitation because of the great Chicago fire)