

**A Better Way  
A Better Exhortation  
Will You Hear His Voice  
Hebrews 3.1-19**

**Hebrews is the book of the Better Way**, in Hebrews we have seen,

- **Our Superlative Savior**
  - Jesus Christ is not another way to heaven
  - Jesus Christ is not a better way to heaven
  - Jesus Christ is the **ONLY WAY** to heaven

*John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

- **Our Purging** – We are fully Pardoned from our sins when Jesus Christ,

*Hebrews 1:3 - . . . by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*

- **Our Stand** – Don't Slip (2.1) Don't let the Word of God slip.
- **Our "So Great A Salvation"** (2.3)
- **Our Reconciliation** and the Defeat of the Devil (2.17)

How do you respond to God? How do you respond to the Word of God and the commands of God?

Do you hear God? Do you heed God?

Notice the question in verse 7 of our text.

**. . . To day if ye will hear his voice . . .**

**A. The Faithful (vs 1-6) - Partakers of the Heavenly Calling** – This speaks to our Faithfulness.

**Notice the Faithful in our text. There is,**

1. **Moses** who faithfully lead Israel for over 40 years.
2. **Our Lord Jesus Christ** who as the son of God was faithful all they way to death on the Cross

Luke 12.42

Faithfulness is encouraged for the people of God. Not faithfulness to your church, your family, your job, or even yourself; **but faithfulness to God.**

*1 Corinthians 4:2 - Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found **faithful.***

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**A. The Faithful (vs 1-6) – Partakers of the heavenly calling**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said,

*Luke 12:42–43 - And the Lord said, Who then is that **faithful and wise steward**, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? <sup>43</sup>**Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.***

We ought to strive to be faithful stewards in our Lord’s Kingdom and we should seek to be found faithfully working in our Lord’s Kingdom when we are called into his reckoning presence.

**Without any doubt we see the faithful in our text, but these faithful people in our Lord kingdom had anything but an easy journey in their stewardship.**

**Moses** had to deal with murmurers and back biters, often rebellious people for the full forty years of his leadership. It was so stressful and trying that Moses at times was seen throwing his hands in the air and asking the Lord, “Are these my children!?”

**Our Lord Jesus Christ** was falsely accused, scourged, mocked, beaten and hung on a cross as a result of His faithfulness.

What do you think your faithfulness will face?

Why do Christians think that their Christian Journey ought to be easy going?

## B. The Faltering (vs 7-19) - The Evil Heart Of Unbelief

1. **Hardened Heart (vs 8)** - **Harden** not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: - **Callous**

**Hardened** – σκληρύνητε (gk) - hard.  
**To make hard or stiff, make obdurate.**

In the NT applied only figuratively to the heart or mind (Acts 19:9; Rom. 9:18; Heb. 3:13; Sept.: Judg. 4:24; 2 Chr. 10:4); of words (2 Sam. 19:43). Joined with the pl. *kardías* (2588), hearts (Heb. 3:8, 15; 4:7 quoted from Ps. 95:8; see Ex. 9:12; 10:20). **Syn.: pōrōō** (4456), **to make hard, callous.**<sup>1</sup>

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- A. The Faithful (vs 1-6) – Partakers of the heavenly calling
- B. The Faltering (vs 7-19)
  1. Hardened Heart - Callous

Acts 9.4

How does something become callous? Through continuous aggravation.

**Illustration** – A guitar players fingers

A Heart is hardened through the continuous pricking of the Holy Spirit of God.

**Acts 9:4–6** - *And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? <sup>5</sup>And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, **I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.** <sup>6</sup>And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.*

A Hardened Heart is a Callous Heart

<sup>1</sup> Spiros Zodhiates, [The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament](#) (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

2. **Erring Heart (vs 10)** - *Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always **err in their heart**; and they have not known my ways.*

Jer 17.9

**Err** – πλανωνται (Gk) - a wandering.  
**To cause to wander, lead astray**, with the acc. In the pass.: to wander, go astray. **(I)** Particularly of persons (Heb. 11:38); of flocks (Matt. 18:12, 13; 1 Pet. 2:25; Sept. : Gen. 37:14; Ex. 23:4). **(II)** Figuratively, **to mislead, cause to err**.<sup>2</sup>

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**B. The Faltering (vs 7-19)**  
1. Hardened Heart – Callous  
2. Erring Heart

People err in respect to God when they determine to follow their heart rather than God and His revealed will and way in the Word of God.

Many people think that if they are just doing what they feel in their heart is the right thing then they must be okay.

The problem is,

***Jeremiah 17:9** - The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

An unredeemed and unreconciled heart will feel that many sinful and wicked things are ok, while they are desperately wicked.

Notice also that the human heart tends to be deceitful above all things. Your heart has the tendency to feel things are good and ok when they are not, and because of the deceit in your heart you will truly feel they way you do. But you are being deceived.

**God said they err in their heart.** They have gone astray in their heart. Their heart has led them in sinful ways.

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<sup>2</sup> ibid.

3. **Evil Heart (vs 12) - *Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.***

**Evil – πονηρα (Gk)** - labor, sorrow, pain. Evil in a moral or spiritual sense, wicked, malicious, mischievous. **(I) In an act. sense, evil which corrupts others,** evil-disposed, malevolent, malignant, wicked.<sup>3</sup>

Notice here that this is not just an evil heart that is in error. This is an evil heart that is in err and is now striving to teach and convince others that their evil is no evil at all. It is an evil that seeks the corruption of others.

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A. The Faithful (vs 1-6) – Partakers of the heavenly calling

B. The Faltering (vs 7-19)

1. Hardened Heart – Callous
2. Erring Heart – Go astray
3. Evil Heart – Corrupts others

**It has been said for many years that corruption loves company.** People, especially corrupt people love to have others join them in their corruption.

**Be careful of people who seek to challenge your godly stand with a corrupt sense of right and wrong.**

4. **Unheeding Heart (vs 15-16) - *While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. <sup>16</sup>For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. – Provoking Heart***

**Provoke - παραπικρασμός (Gk)** - to provoke to bitterness. A bitter provocation, exasperation (Heb. 3:8, 15; Sept.: Ps. 95:8).<sup>4</sup>

When connected with an evil heart that seeks to corrupt others **this is the provocation that will not relent.** This evil provocation will not allow another to believe in God but will continue to attack until the one being influenced relents.

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3 ibid.

4 ibid.

They will seek to cause you the falter in your faith by wearing you down in your godly stand for our Lord and on His Word.

**5. Unbelieving Heart (vs 12, 18-19) -** *Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an **evil heart of unbelief**, in departing from the living God.*

*Hebrews 3:18–19 - And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that **believed not?**<sup>19</sup> So we see that they could not enter in **because of unbelief.***

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**A. The Faithful (vs 1-6) – Partakers of the heavenly calling**

**B. The Faltering (vs 7-19)**

1. Hardened Heart – Callous
2. Erring Heart – Go astray
3. Evil Heart – Corrupts others
4. Unheeding Heart - Provoking

**Unbelief – απιστιαν (gk)** - Untrustworthy. Faithlessness or uncertainty, distrust, unbelief. In the NT, the lack of acknowledgment of Christ (Matt. 13:58; Mark 6:6); want of confidence in Christ's power (Matt. 17:20; Mark 9:24; 16:14). In general, a want of trust in the God of promise (Rom. 3:3; 4:20; 11:20, 23; 1 Tim. 1:13; Heb. 3:12, 19).<sup>5</sup>

**Believe Not – απειθησασιν (gk)** - disobedient. **Not to allow oneself to be persuaded or believe**, to disbelieve, be disobedient<sup>6</sup>

We must understand that these hard hearted provocateurs have determined that they will not believe. They will never be persuaded, they have made up their mind to not believe and to provoke the faithful to unbelief as well.

What we discover in our text is the heart and way of **an Apostate**. An Apostates heart is,

- Hardened
- Erring
- Evil – Seeking to corrupt others
- Provoking – unrelenting
- Unbelieving – obstinately unbelieving, the refuse to believe.

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<sup>5</sup> ibid.

<sup>6</sup> ibid.

C. **The Fellowship (vs 13) - *But exhort one another daily*, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. - The Exhortation to believing faithfulness**

Notice the,

1. **The Need for Exhorting Fellowship - *... But exhort one another ...* - One cannot not be exhorted or called to faithfulness if one is closed to spiritual encouragement from others.**
2. **The Expediency of Exhorting Fellowship - *But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; ...* - Daily. Continuously. Moment by moment.**

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  5. Unbelieving Heart

Heb 10.25

Why?

Because those hard hearted apostate reprobates are provoking. They will not rest until they have corrupted your faith. Therefore our spiritual confidants must be equally vigilant.

We need an exhorting unrelenting spiritual fellowship and encouragement.

This is why the Word of God declares,

***Hebrews 10:25 - Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.***

Our greatest defense against the Faltering and their relentless provocations is the Better Fellowship our Lord has given us. We must strive to exhort one another daily, always recognizing that the Hard hearted unbelievers will relentlessly attack those who are Partakers of the Heavenly Calling.

Just as Moses struggled with the murmurers and backbiters in the wilderness day after day for more than 40 years, you too will struggle with provocateurs day by day in your Christian Journey. If you try to stand alone you might be worn down by their menacing attacks. This is why you need an exhorting fellowship.

Just as our Lord was continuously attacked and even hung on a cross, we too need to be faithful all the way to the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Our Lord has given us a Better Fellowship to help us to stand as faithful stewards for our Lord.

### **Three Questions Today,**

Are you a part of this functioning exhorting fellowship. Are you seeking spiritual strength for your brothers and sisters in Christ?

Can you be exhorted by this Better Fellowship or are you closed to their help and encouragement?

Are you a Partakers of the Heavenly Calling, born-again, through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ or are you in the ranks of these faltering hard-hearted people.

CrossRoads Baptist Church, August 15, 2021

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  - 2. Erring Heart – Go astray
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  - 4. Unheeding Heart – Provoking
  - 5. Unbelieving Heart
- C. The Fellowship**