

THE IMPORTANCE OF TODAY

Hebrews 3:(6) 7-19; 4:1-11

I. The Nature of Our Faith (Heb 3:7, 13, 15)

A. In Time

1. Past—anchored in history
2. Future—moving toward a future fulfillment
3. Current—lived out today, right now, every day

B. In Relationship

1. Corporate—adopted into the family, shared with fellow believers
2. Personal—if YOU hear His voice, you must respond to God in faith and obedience

C. In Action (4:11)—faith must be *lived out*, we have work to do
—> **Hearing** combined with **faith** will produce **action**.

II. The Nature of Unbelief (Ex 17; Num 14:22-23)

A. Disobedient (3:15-18; 4:6, 11)—sinful, rebellious
—>Unbelief is displayed in disobedience.

B. Insulting to God (3:9-11; Ps 95:7-11; Ex 17:1-7; Num 14:22-23)—quarreled, grumbled, tested, despised, provoked

C. Heart Condition (Heb 3:8, 10, 12)—intelligence, will and affection
—> Unbelief is **more a problem of the heart** than of the **head**.

1. **Sin is deceitful**. (3:13; Jer 17:9; Eph 4:22). Unbelief says you would be safer, happier, better off if you disobey God and go your own way.

2. **Hardening is a process**. (3:13)—become set in your ways and attitude

3. **It can become permanent**. (Rom 1:18-28)—calcified proclivity (bent, bias, mindset)

III. **The Warning of Danger**—don't be like the Israelites who rebelled in the wilderness

A. **The Consequences of Unbelief**

1. **Falling away from the living God** (3:12)—**turning** away, implies rebellion
2. **Unable to enter God's rest** (3:11, 19; 4:1)—failed to reach it, not permitted to enter

B. **The Possibility of Falling** (1 Cor 11:28; Phil 2:12; 2 Pet 1:10-11)—Perseverance is a test of genuine faith

1. **The Caveat** (Heb 3:6, 14)—“**IF**”; we must persevere
2. **The Caution** (Heb 3:12; 4:11)—**take care**, see to it, make sure—that you don't have a sinful, unbelieving heart that falls away and fails to enter
 - a. Faith must be **active and growing**.
 - b. Faith must be **lived out daily**. We have work to do today!
 - c. Faith must (will) **persevere to the end**.

C. **The Antidote to Hardening** (3:13)—exhort/encourage one another every day

1. **Be aware of your heart** (Ps 139:23-24; Prov 4:23; Lk 21:34)—guard and maintain it, use the means of grace
2. **Exhort/Encourage one another** (Col 3:16; 1 Thes 5:11)—spur one another on, pour courage into each other
3. **As long as it is called TODAY**—daily, every day—this is where we live out our faith

Listen to “Begone Unbelief” by Lori Sealy on YouTube:
<https://youtu.be/FqhHq3BC42Q>