

Hebrews 3:1-4:13 KEEP ON KEEPING ON

Think of a time when a Christian friend encouraged your faith. What did this person do to help you?

Read Hebrews 3: 1-6

1. How is Jesus like Moses only far greater?
2. Put yourself in the sandals of those who left Egypt under Moses' leadership. What was their hope for the future? Why would they need courage to keep going?
3. What are the implications of the important word "if" in 3:6? How can people demonstrate that they belong to God's house ? v 1, 6

Understanding Israel's Rebellion read Numbers 13:25-14:35

4. Given God's promise and everything he had done, how should have the Israelites responded? & How did they?
5. What was God's judgement on them? What did they miss out on?

Read Hebrews 3: 7-18

6. What was the real problem with the Israelites according to Ps 95 which is quoted in v7-11?
7. In what ways are Christians following Jesus parallel to Israelites following Moses? How ought we to be different from them? What is our danger as Christians?
8. What are we urged to do about it? v 12-15
9. In what practical ways can we do this considering how extremely important it is?

As New Covenant people ('the new Israel') who are in the "spiritual wilderness" heading towards the 'rest' or Promised Land, we are to always have soft believing hearts towards God unlike Israel who hardened their hearts. We don't need to lack confidence in God to lead us to the 'rest' but rather daily encourage one another to "hear his voice" and respond to him in obedience.

Read Hebrews 4: 1-13

10. What is this future Sabbath rest? (See also Heb 3:1, 11:13-16; Rev 14:12-13.)
11. Thinking back to Genesis 1-3, did humanity ever share in that rest of God? What ultimately stopped them from doing so?
12. How does the author of Hebrews make use of both Genesis 2:1-3 and Psalm 95 to show that there remains a future Sabbath rest for us Christians?
13. What is to be our attitude towards God's voice, God's word (Heb 4:12-13)? How should that show practically?

Implications

Why do people turn away from God according to this passage?

How can sin be deceptive? How may sin's deceitfulness harden our hearts?

Are there particular sins that are especially deceptive and dangerous in causing people in your Christian group to fall away and miss out on entering the final rest of heaven?

In the light of this passage, What practical steps does a Christian need to take to make sure they remain faithful?