

(1) Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses --- as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.

(5) Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, but Christ is faithful over God's house as a Son. And we are His house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

(7) Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says,

“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put Me to the test and say My works for forty years. Therefore, I was provoked with that generation, and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart; they have not known My ways.’ As I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’”

(12) Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence to the end.

(15) As it is said,

“Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

(16) For who were those who heard it and rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was He provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

(4:1) Therefore, while the promise of entering His rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.

Think on these things:

- 1) Both Jesus and Moses were faithful to God, but “Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory” (v.3). Using the illustration of God's people comprising a ‘house’, how was Moses described and how was Jesus described in vs.5-6?

Moses – **He was a servant in God's House to give testimony.**

Jesus – **He is the Son (the homeowner), the One to whom Moses testified.**

- 2) How can we be sure to be included in God's house as explained in v.6b? **We must hold fast to our confidence and hope in God.**
- 3) Verses 7-11 focus on “hardened” hearts. V.7 speaks of hearing God's voice, and v.9 speaks of seeing God's works. Despite these experiences, something happened in those 40 years causing God to become very angry and declare, “They shall not enter my rest.” Let's sort this out:

v.8 Was hardening the heart a choice or result? **It was (and "is") a choice.**

v.9 How did God view their actions and attitudes? **He viewed the people as always testing Him.**

v.10 God was provoked. He saw two things going on. What were they?

Their hearts – **were always going astray (chasing after other interests).**

God's ways – **They did not know God's ways (so they did things their way).**

Does this ever reflect your mindset? Though through your experiences you know and believe in God, you gradually choose to become indifferent to spiritual things. God becomes unimportant in your day-to-day life. You focus on other things, and eventually you find yourself walking 'out of step' with God --- yet you don't really care or worry about it. If so, you are dangerously close to the rebellious attitude and actions of the Israelites whom God delivered out of Egypt. Seeing God's cloud by day and pillar of fire by night, and being fed daily with manna, they still didn't develop lasting faith in God. They were a complaining and disobedient people that God judged.

4) From v.12, what causes Christians to fall away from God? **Having evil, unbelieving hearts leading us away from God.**

5) How can the Christian community (church) help individuals from being deceived by sin (v.13)?

We are counseled to encourage (exhort) and challenge each other every day.

6) How can a Christian be assured of sharing in Christ and His Kingdom (v.14)? **Hold on to our original confidence to the very end (of our lives).**

7) According to v.15, what would make a Christian like a 'rebellious Israelite'?

Hearing God's voice, and then hardening our hearts to not listen and obey.

8) Comparing vs. 7-11 and 16-19, what is the writer's conclusion as to why the delivered Israelites never entered God's rest (or entered the land of Canaan)?

They were unbelievers (they provoked and tested God, sinning and disobeying).

9) What promise remains for believers today, and what is the concern (4:1)?

Promise? **To enter God's "rest."**

Concern? **Fear that we may fail to reach it.**

10) Opinion: What do you think 'being in God's rest' means? Consider Matthew 28:20 & John 14:27.

Possibly: Jesus is always with us and everywhere throughout life, and He gives a peace that others (unbelievers) never experience.

People and situations I want to pray for this week: