

Today, If You Hear His Voice

Hebrews 3:7-15 (ESV)

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 wilderness,

⁹ where your fathers put me to the test
and saw my works for forty years.

¹⁰ Therefore I was provoked with that generation,
and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart;
they have not known my ways.’

¹¹ 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ,
if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

¹⁵ As it is said,

“Today if you hear his voice,

do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

(Remember: The context of these verses extends to and includes Heb 4:13).

Notes & Comments

Hebrews 3:7-15 (ESV)

- When the heart goes astray, every goes awry.
- If and when we hear His voice, we **must** obey Him
- We can **hear** his voice and **see His work**, yet **not know Him**.
- V. 7 is clear indication that the Psalmist spoke (Ps 95) through the **Holy Spirit**. A high view of **Scripture**. In v.15. , “it” possibly refers to the Scriptures and not the Holy Spirit.
- In this portion we see:
 - The New Testament writers view of Inspiration,
 - How they used the Old Testament , and also
 - How they used Translations, since the Author is quoting from the Septuagint – Greek translation of the OT (LXX).
- **A hardened heart**
 - Is an evil and unbelieving heart
 - Is easy prey to the deceitfulness of sin – The heart is deceitful as it is already cf. [Jer 17:9](#)
 - Leads to rebellion, disobedience, sin
 - Leads away from the Living God
 - Provokes and tests God
 - Deserves / incurs **the wrath of God**
- Many die in the “**wilderness**” due to “**hardness of heart.**”
- The difference between a **hardened heart** and a **submissive** or a **responsive heart** is **obedience**. When we **hear** His voice, we need to (**must**) **heed** or **harken to** what He says. We are to **trust** God, not **test or tempt** Him!
- “**Harkening to God, prevents the hardening of the heart.**”
- Vital and vibrant Christianity community (where we **practice the “one another commands”**), is **cure** and **protection** from hardness of heart (**evil and unbelieving heart**). There **the heart** and **faith** are **nurtured**.
- If we persevere to the end, we will enter “**His rest.**” *Perseverance proves that we are “in Christ.”*
- If we harden our hearts, we will fall by the wayside and die on the way to “His rest”.
- **Hardness of heart, unbelief, rebellion and disobedience** are connected. They are manifestations of SIN. (See vs. 16-19).
- Hearing the Word of God, is never enough. The Message must be mixed with faith to benefit us (4:2).
- **Let us** use **the Word** that is **living, active**, and **sharp** to **enrich** our lives and to **equip** us (4:12). The Word, **gives** and **sustains life**, but it also **slays**. **Which would it be?**
- Only the Word can transform us to conform to the image of Christ and equip up for service. cf. [Rom 12:2](#); [Php 4:8-9](#); [2Tim 3:16-17](#). **See also:** [Josh 1:8](#); [Ps 1:2-3](#); [Ezra 7:8-10](#); [Ps 19:7-14](#); [Ps 119:1ff](#)
- **Inductive**, not **deductive** study of the Word of God yields the best results:
 - What does it **Say**? - Observation
 - What does it **Mean**? - Interpretation
 - What does it **Mean to Me / Us**? - Application