

# ENTERING HIS REST – Part 3

## Sermon Handout

Speaker: Eric C. Bogan / August 14, 2022

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### Hebrews 4:1

According to this verse, we must be very careful, even *fearful*, that we do not come short of entering into His rest. We've been sharing with you a few things we must *avoid* if we truly want to enter into His rest. For instance, we must...

## AVOID STRIFE AND DISPUTES

## AVOID DOUBT AND UNBELIEF

Speaking of 'Doubt and Unbelief,' when we examine the word **unbelief** we notice something very interesting lying beneath its surface ([Hebrews 3:18](#)).

The interesting thing about this word "believe not" is the fact that it can also be translated *disobedient*.

### [Hebrews 3:18](#) American Standard Version Bible

<sup>18</sup> And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, **but to them that were DISOBEDIENT?**

The reason the word 'unbelief' can be translated 'disobedience' is because it often means more than simply *a failure to believe*. The word unbelief often means to be *obstinate* (i.e. unwilling to believe, or refusing to change one's mind). Therefore, the reason the Israelites were denied access into God's rest was not just because they *failed to believe*. They were denied access because they *rebelled* against God.

We sometimes think all it takes for us to receive God's promise, is to simply *believe*. However, we fail to realize that it takes more than faith to receive the promises ([James 2:14](#)).

Faith alone cannot save us. We MUST incorporate ‘works’ (or obedience) with faith ([1 Thessalonians 1:3](#)). We are reminded in this verse that WORKS must *proceed* (or flow) from faith, LABOR must proceed (or flow) from love, and how PATIENCE must proceed (or flow) from hope. Therefore, a certain amount of *works* (obedience) must accompany our faith if we expect to enter His rest!

Let’s add this idea of ‘disobedience’ to our list of things that we must avoid...

## **AVOID DISOBEDIENCE AND REBELLION**

Why do we see words like ‘believe not’ being translated as *disobedience* in the Bible? It’s because in the Bible, words like *believe* and *obey*, or words like *unbelief* and *disobey*, are **intertwined** ([Hebrews 3:12](#)).

Again, we see from this verse that a ‘heart of unbelief’ is often expressed through *disobedience* (i.e. “departing from the living God”). Thus, unbelief is often synonymous with being stubborn and obstinate!

But, we don’t have to be obstinate to be disobedient. We can express the same disobedience by being *slothful* ([Matthew 25:25, 26](#)).

So, whether we’re obstinate (refuse to obey) or simply slothful (delay to obey), we’re still guilty of disobedience! And, if we’re guilty of disobedience, we’re not operating in faith. And if we’re not operating in faith, we’re not entering the rest! Again, this is because faith and obedience go hand and hand.

You can’t operate in one apart from the other ([James 2:18](#)). According to James, we ‘show’ that we have faith by works ([James 2:21](#)).

We often claim, “Lord, I believe. I’m in faith.” However, until we put into practice the things we claim we believe, we are *not* really in faith. In other words, *obedience* is required in order to believe!

The opposite is *also* true. Faith is required in order to obey ([Hebrews 11:8](#)). Faith supplies us with the ability or power to obey ([Mark 9:23](#)). When the Bible says that we can do ALL things, this includes obedience. It’s possible to obey when you believe!

If our faith can make a sycamore tree obedient, how much more can it make us obedient ([Luke 17:6](#))!

I want to talk a little about the negative impact disobedience can have on us, particularly on our *heart* ([Hebrews 3:7, 8](#)). As in the case of unbelief, **hearing** carries with it the idea of *obedience*. Therefore, refusing to hear is the same as not doing or disobeying ([Luke 8:18-21](#)).

Going back to our passage in Hebrews...we notice what happens when we refuse (or when we are slow) to obey the voice of God? Our hearts become hardened!

We spoke to you Wednesday about the dangers of having a heart that is hard. We assume that if our heart is hard, then it's because it's *always* been hard. In other words, it's not really our fault that our heart is hard.

However, we must remember that when we're saved, God gives us a NEW heart. Therefore, if our heart is hard, it must mean that it *became* hard AFTERWARDS!

#### [Hebrews 5:11](#) Amplified Bible

<sup>11</sup> Concerning this we have much to say which is hard to explain, since **you have BECOME dull in your [spiritual] hearing and** sluggish [even slothful in achieving spiritual insight].

Notice how this verse says, "you have BECOME dull in your spiritual hearing." Therefore, there was a time when they were once *zealous* for spiritual things. How did they *become* dull (hardened)? They became dull (hardened) through repeated acts of hearing and not doing.

Thus, hearing the word can have a negative effect on you IF you don't do anything with it! You can actually *regress* in your spiritual development by repeatedly rejecting or delaying to do what you hear.