

Zech 7:11-12

11 But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears that they might not hear. 12 They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law and the words that the Lord of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets. Therefore great anger came from the Lord of hosts.  
ESV

**Notice in verse 12 that they not only hardened their hearts, they made their hearts diamond-hard.**

- If we were to rank all minerals on earth
- and their ability to scratch other materials,
- the diamond ranks #1.

**Diamonds aren't necessarily tough.**

- In fact, they are very brittle
- and can be chipped despite being hard.

I like that because even a hard heart can be softened.

Heb 3:15

15 "Today, if you will hear His voice,  
Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

**This implies that people have a choice whether to harden their heart**

- or not to harden their heart.

**God has a way of softening a person's heart.**

**I wonder how many people could have been saved from**

- the pits of hell had someone simply loved them.

Prov 15:1

1 A soft answer turns away wrath,  
But a harsh word stirs up anger.

Heb 3:11

11 So I swore in My wrath,  
'They shall not enter My rest.'

Rest was something the Lord meant for Israel once they entered the promise land.

**However, because of their sin,**

- and because of unbelief which we'll see in verse 19,
- they didn't enter the promise land.

When the 12 spies returned from scouting the land in Num 13-14

- most of them were fearful in their report.

The people believed the bad report

- rather than trusting God's promise
- to give them the land,

Some giving the report said, "We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes."

Notice it was in their own eyes they seemed like grasshoppers. Not in the eyes of God.

Num 13:33

33 There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

After that generation died off, the next generation

- were allowed into the promise land
- and they experienced rest because
- they chose to trust God.

You and I as Christians have trials on this earth.

- But the day is coming when God will give us rest.
- Even today we can rest in Him.

Matt 11:28-29

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

The next section of Hebrews 3 encourages us to watch our heart,

- to encourage the brethren
- and to hold on to our faith in the Lord.

When a person allows sin in his life,

- his heart slowly hardens,

Heb 3:12

12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

Immediately, we see a stern warning, "beware." And the warning is to the brethren,

The warning is, for anyone having an unbelieving evil heart,

When Jesus returned to Nazareth,

- His own people didn't believe Him.

We're told in Matt 13:58 that He didn't do many miracles there because of their unbelief.

The Greek word used in verse 12 for depart is "aphistemi" and is used here when speaking of those who turn away.

Luke 8:13

13 But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.

1 Tim 4:1

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons

John 6:65-69

65 And He said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."

66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. (why, because of unbelief) 67 So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, 69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

ESV

There is some emphasis placed here on an individual's responsibility to walk with Christ.

Mark 7:21-23

21 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

ESV

Heb 3:13

13 but (to) exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

As iron sharpens iron we are to exhort one another daily.

Heb 10:25

25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

**As the day draws nearer, which day, the day of Christ,**

- the day the Lord returns for the church,

Heb 3:14

14 For we have become partakers of Christ

**As partakers we now share in the benefits of Christ as Christians.**

if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

Heb 3:6

6 but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

**It seems that the idea**

- is that the outcome of our lives
- demonstrates the validity of our claim.

**In other words, continuance in faith**

- is the ultimate proof of the reality of faith.

15 while it is said:

"Today, if you will hear His voice,  
Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

**This is a repeat of what was said earlier in verses 7 & 8.**

- It's drawing attention to Israel's rebellion in the wilderness
- after their delivery from Egypt.

**When a person is warned of something, he should listen.**

- When warned a second time,
- he'd better listen.

He says, "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

**Napoleon is famously quoted as saying:**

*"I know men and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man... Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded His empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for Him."*

Why would a person not want to know whether or not they are saved.

Unfortunately, too many people die not knowing that today was their last day.

Heb 3:16-19

16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? 17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? (unbelieving Israel) 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Moses sent 12 spies out to view the land, the promise land.

**If you look at the map of the middle east and you see Israel,**

- some people think of that as the promise land.
- “Oh wow, God gave that land to Israel.”

**Today Israel occupies** only a fraction of what God gave them.

**Ten of the men reporting in Num 13**

- gave a negative and fearful report
- of giants living in the land.

**Remember, God had already promised them the land.**

**Is God or has God told you to do something and you continue to say,**

- “I’m praying about it.”

There comes a time when you have to stop praying about it and move.

**When the Egyptian army was approaching Moses**

- and the Israelites near the red sea,
- the people became fearful
- thinking they were going to die

Ex 14:15

15 The Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward.

ESV

**There comes a time when we need to step out in faith**

- and trust God and His word.

**When God told Moses to stop crying,**

- He was encouraging him

- to stop pleading and start leading.

**Most of us are familiar with the passage in James,**

- “faith without works is dead.”

Heb 11:6

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

**Be willing to step out in faith if the Lord is telling you to mobilize,**

And be prepared for times of peace and times of war with the enemy.

Eccl 3:1,8

1 To everything there is a season,  
A time for every purpose under heaven:

8 A time to love,  
And a time to hate;  
A time of war,  
And a time of peace.

**David stepped out against the giant, Goliath,**

- he didn't look at his size. Why?
- Because he knew the God he served
- was greater than Goliath.

Prov 29:25

25 The fear of man brings a snare,  
But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.

**Trusting in the Lord means resting in Him**

- knowing that He's got us.

Heb 4:1-5

1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. 2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. 3 For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said:

"So I swore in My wrath,  
'They shall not enter My rest,'"

although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. 4 For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the

seventh day from all His works"; 5 and again in this place: "They shall not enter My rest."

God desires rest for us because it doesn't come naturally to us.

**The author is wanting the reader to understand**

- that thru unbelief and disobedience,
- the Jews didn't enjoy God's rest as they could have,
- but now the current generation
- was going to miss out on greater rest
- if they didn't commit themselves to the Lord.

**So there was a promise of entering rest,**

- it was a lesser rest, but it was better than slavery.

**The author mixes things up in this chapter,**

- he talks about their history
- then he talks about their sabbath rest,
- then he comes back and talks about the history of Joshua.

Heb 4:1b let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

**Don't lose sight of who God is.**

The author says in verse two that the gospel was preached to us as well as to them.

**So the author is telling the Jews not to miss out on Jesus**

- as their ancestors missed out on the promise Land.

**But not all missed out,**

- Joshua and Caleb were confident in the Lord.

**Not only were they confident,**

- they tried to convince the Israelites
- to trust the Lord as well.

Num 14:9

9 Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them."

**That would be similar to us saying, "it's a piece of cake."**

Heb 4:3

3 For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said:

"So I swore in My wrath,  
 'They shall not enter My rest,'" (the freed Hebrew slaves)

although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.  
 NKJV

**Who is it that enters that rest,** we who have believed.

How do we know we are one of those who have believed?

Matt 7:20-24

20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

- How they conduct themselves
- How they treat others
- How they speak to others
- Who are they keeping company with
- By the things they speak

**Next we see the qualifier:**

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

**The qualifier is** "he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: