

Pastor Clifford  
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# The Book of Hebrews: Chapter 3

(Blue text is Hebrews)

“Therefore, holy brothers *and sisters*, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession: Jesus; <sup>2</sup> He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house. <sup>3</sup> For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house. <sup>4</sup> For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things God. <sup>5</sup> Now Moses was faithful in all God’s house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken *later*; <sup>6</sup> but Christ *was faithful* as a Son over His house— *whose house we are, if we hold firmly to our confidence and the boast of our hope.*”

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says,  
“TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,  
<sup>8</sup> DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME,  
AS ON THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS,  
<sup>9</sup> WHERE YOUR FATHERS PUT *ME* TO THE TEST,  
AND SAW *MY* WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS.  
<sup>10</sup> THEREFORE I WAS ANGRY WITH THIS GENERATION,  
AND SAID, ‘THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART,  
AND THEY DID NOT KNOW *MY* WAYS’;  
<sup>11</sup> AS I SWORE IN MY ANGER,  
‘THEY CERTAINLY SHALL NOT ENTER *MY* REST.’”

## **A Heavenly Calling**

**Micah 6:7,8** “Does the LORD take pleasure in thousands of rams, In ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give *Him* my firstborn *for* my wrongdoings, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has told you, mortal one, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?”

## **High Priest**

High priest (in Hebrew kohen gadol) the chief religious functionary in the Temple, whose unique privilege was to enter the Holy of Holies (inner sanctum) once a year on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, to burn incense and sprinkle sacrificial animal blood to atone for his own sins and those of the people of Israel. On this occasion he wore only white linen garments, forgoing the elaborate priestly vestments.

## **Rest**

John Piper – But fear what? “Fear lest . . . any one of you should seem to have come short of God’s rest” – the restful haven of salvation.

**Matthew 11:28-30** “Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is comfortable, and My burden is light.”

## **A Hard Heart**

**Ephesians 4:18** “They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.”

**Matthew 13:14-16** “Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: “You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive. For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with

their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.”

**Proverbs 28:13-14** “Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy. Blessed is the one who fears the LORD always, but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity.”

**Hosea 10:12** “I said, ‘Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love. Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you.’”

### **8 Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, As on the day of trial in the wilderness,**

The author of Hebrews is very deliberate about using the correlation between Israel and the church. Israel in many ways is the foreshadow and the church is the fulfillment. This is why he stresses the importance of belief and not allowing the heart to become hard.

**12 Take care, brothers *and sisters*, that there will not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another every day, as long as it is *still* called “today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we keep the beginning of our commitment firm until the end, 15 while it is said,**  
**“TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,  
DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME.”**

There are a couple of principles in the word that have to do with our secure relationship with God.

**John 10:28-30** “and I give them eternal life, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.”

**Romans 8:38, 39** “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

### **Take care lest you fall away.**

The way to avoid falling away: we keep the beginning of our commitment firm until the end.

**Colossians 1:21-23** “And although you were previously alienated and hostile in attitude, *engaged* in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His body of flesh through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach— if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.”

**Galatians 5:1-6** “It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. Look! I, Paul, tell you that if you have yourselves circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. And I testify again to every man who has himself circumcised, that he is obligated to keep the whole Law. You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by the Law; you have fallen from grace. For we, through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.”

**16 For who provoked *Him* when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt *led* by Moses? 17 And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose dead bodies fell in the wilderness?**

**18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? 19 And so we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.**

**What is key here is entering the REST of God?**

Faith and belief establishes our relationship.

Unbelief and rebellion breaks the relationship.

**13 But encourage one another every day, as long as it is *still* called “today,**