

Superior: Hebrews Over Unbelief

Craig Smith • September 15, 2019

So, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did.” (Heb. 3:7)

☛ **The danger of unbelief is a calloused heart** – “See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.” (Heb. 3:12)

🔍 **Note: doubt can be a sincere question (uncertainty); doubt can also be a rejection of the answer (unbelief)** – “Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.” (Matt. 28:16-17)

The spiritual weapon in preventing a calloused heart is mutual encouragement...

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.
(Heb. 3:13)

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up...
(1 Thes. 5:11)

The art of encouragement involves...

- **Calling out the idle** – “And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle...” (1 Thes. 5:14)
- **Calling up the fainthearted** – “...encourage the timid...” (1 Thes. 5:14)
- **Carrying forward the weak** – “...help the weak...” (1 Thes. 5:14)
- **Choosing patience with all** – “...be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.” (1 Thes. 5:14b-15)

🔍 **Spiritual encouragement assumes you run with people who benefit your life** – “He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.” (Prov. 13:20)

Daily encouragement reminds us that the race isn’t won until it is finished...

We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. As has just been said: “Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.” (Heb. 3:14-15)