



## February 11, 2024 || The Antidote to a Hard Heart

*We badly need the exposing truth of God's living Word to cut through sin's deception so we can be protected against the hardening of our hearts and instead persevere in the saving rest Christ has for us.*

### **Key Text: Hebrews 3:7-11**

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice, **Do not harden your hearts** as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness, Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years. Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, 'They always go astray in *their* heart, And they have not known My ways.' So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.' "

- Hardness of Heart = Pride
- Hardened hearts don't think they're hard. They think they're right.
- Hebrews 3:12
- Hebrews 3:13 **Self-examination is a community project.**
- We all have blind spots! Therefore, we all need others!
- "We are incessant interpreters of our own realities. We need each other to consistently communicate the truth of where we stand with sin and God to us in a way that penetrates our delusions. The enemy wins by getting us to be autonomous, self-sufficient Christians." - Paul Tripp

- True community will expose you.
- You are called to be an exhorter - a truth-teller - to others.
- Galatians 6:1

Purpose is Restorative

Manner is Gentle

Hebrews 3:14-15

Hebrews 3:16-18

Hebrews 3:19

Hebrews 4:1

Hebrews 4:2

Hebrews 4:3-5

Hebrews 4:6-7 with Today bolded in both places

Hebrews 4:8-10

Hebrews 4:11

Hebrews 4:12-13

Hebrews 4:12-13 note 'living'

Hebrews 4:12-13 note 'active'

Hebrews 4:12-13 note 'sharper than any 2-edged sword'

Where might your heart be hardened?

Q) How do we take care and protect against hardening of our hearts?

A) The Word of God

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**#3 - OBEY** - Are you regularly obeying God's Word?

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#4 - EXHORT - Are you regularly exhorting and being exhorted with God's Word?

Are you regularly exhorting and being exhorted with God's Word?

- Who are you exhorting regularly?
- Are you afraid to exhort?
- Do you know God's Word enough to exhort with it?
- Do you know people well enough to exhort them?
- How are you exhorting them?
- Are you inviting others in to exhort you?
- Are you receptive to others' exhortation?