

# To Be or Not To Be

**Central Passage:** Hebrews 3:7-19

**Central Question:** *Will we enter God's rest through faith, or will we remain in restlessness through unbelief?*

## I. Introduction: The Ultimate Question (To Be or Not To Be)

- **The Analogy:** The famous line from Shakespeare's *Hamlet* raises the question of life versus death.
- **The Spiritual Parallel:** The writer of Hebrews presents a similar, eternal question:
  - To enter God's **Rest** (Life in Christ).
  - Or to enter God's **Restlessness** (Judgment due to unbelief).

## II. The Divine Warning (Hebrews 3:7-11)

- **A. The Source of the Warning: "As the Holy Ghost saith..."**
  - This is not just a human suggestion but a direct imperative from God's Spirit.
  - It comes with the authority of the one who inspired the original text (Psalm 95).
- **B. The Urgency of the Warning: "Today"**
  - The call to respond is for this present moment. It cannot be put off until tomorrow.
- **C. The Heart of the Warning: "Harden not your hearts"**
  - The primary danger is allowing a root of unbelief to grow, creating calluses on your heart and making you unresponsive to God.
  - This "hardening" happened during the "provocation" or "rebellion" in the wilderness.

## III. The Historical Example: A Generation of Unbelief (Exodus & Numbers)

- **A. God's Overwhelming Faithfulness**
  - He provided miraculous deliverance from Egypt, guidance in the desert, manna from heaven, and water from a rock.
  - He demonstrated His power and His presence among them countless times.
- **B. Israel's Persistent Unbelief**
  - Despite seeing God's works for 40 years, they continually tested Him.
  - They grumbled, complained, and longed to return to their past life in Egypt.

- The ultimate act of unbelief came when the ten spies gave an "evil report" of the Promised Land, causing the people to fear the obstacles more than they trusted God's promise (Numbers 13-14).
- **C. The Tragic Consequence**
  - God was grieved and declared, "They shall not enter into My rest."
  - An entire generation was barred from the promise because of their unbelief.

#### IV. The Application for Today's Believer (Hebrews 3:12-19)

- **A. The Internal Danger: "An evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God" (v. 12)**
  - The root cause of falling away is not external pressure, but an internal failure to believe.
  - Unbelief is a sin that causes us to forget God's faithfulness and disobey His voice.
- **B. The Communal Safeguard: "Exhort one another daily" (v. 13)**
  - We have a responsibility to encourage our fellow believers to remain steadfast.
  - This fellowship protects us from being hardened by sin's deceitfulness.
- **C. The Enduring Condition: "If we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end" (v. 14)**
  - Our partnership with Christ is maintained by holding on to our faith.
- **D. The Final Verdict: "So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief" (v. 19)**
  - The writer makes the lesson unmistakably clear. The issue was not the giants in the land; it was the unbelief in their hearts.

#### V. Your Choice: An Invitation to Enter His Rest

- **The Two Paths:**
  - **Rest:** An eternal reality in the presence of Jesus, where there is no more pain or sorrow, only worship and joy.
  - **Restlessness:** A state of eternal judgment reserved for those who are disobedient through unbelief.
- **The Invitation:**
  - While it is still "Today," call on the Lord.
  - Do not harden your heart. You must be born again to see the Kingdom of God.
  - Jesus is standing with His arms open wide, ready to welcome you into His rest.