



Message Series Guide

Nothing Greater

Part 3 – The Deceitfulness of Sin

Hebrews 3:12-19

As Christians we long for a deeper and more meaningful life with Christ. We sense that the answer is found in a deeper commitment to God and His Word. But that's where we get stuck. Many times, we simply struggle with unbelief. *Will God truly meet all of my needs? Will He keep me and my family safe? Can I fully trust Him with every area of my life?* In the Old Testament, God's people (the Nation of Israel) hardened their hearts toward God. As a result, an entire generation was prohibited from entering into the Promised Land. When we harden our hearts toward God, the only thing we miss out on is everything God has to offer. The fruit of faith is obedience to the Lord in all circumstances. When our hearts are soft and pliable to God's truth, we are more likely to trust His promises and avoid the deceitfulness of sin.

READ:

Hebrews 3:12-19 | Romans 2:5 | Proverbs 19:20 | John 15:5-7 | 1 Timothy 4:7 | Matthew 7:21-22

- How might one develop an unbelieving and evil heart? In what ways could an unbelieving heart lead a believer astray? Why is the heart deceitful above all things (Jeremiah 17:9)?
- How can we increase our unbelief and increase our faith in God? How do believers help one another from falling into the deceitfulness of sin?
- What does it mean that we are partakers of Christ? What is the reward for the believer that holds their original confidence firm to the end? As believers, what does it mean to finish the race?
- How does a hardened heart provoke God? What happened to the Israelites who provoked God? What was the reason an entire generation of Israelites were prohibited from entering into the Promise Land?

DISCUSS:

- What tempts you the most to rebel against God? What can we do to avoid hardening our hearts toward God? What can we do if we are falling away from the truths of God?
- Why are relationships with others such an important part of our faith walk? What specific things can others do to encourage you? In what ways can we all encourage one another as the Body of Christ?
- How is sin deceitful? How can sin be both attractive and deadly? What can we do to prevent the deceptive lure of sin in our lives?
- What prevents us from entering into God's rest? In what areas do you struggle with unbelief?
- What is the connection between sin and unbelief? How do we hold firm to our faith until the very end? How do you think followers of Christ can stay faithful until the end?

PRAY:

Pray for God to reveal any areas in your life where you have either hardened your heart or where you are struggling with unbelief. Ask the Lord to soften your heart and increase your faith in Him today.

RESPOND:

Based on Hebrews 3, think of ways that you can encourage those in your Journey Group or those in your friendship circles to remain faithful to God and His Word.