

# Hebrews 3:7-19

## Week Five

Study written by Holli Worthington



# HEBREWS

3:7-19

## Day 1



*Heavenly Father, lead me and guide me into understanding as I read your word, teach me through your Holy Spirit and incline my heart to your word and your ways.*

- ✓ Read through the passage in each translation.
- ✓ Underline or write in the margin, themes that you see.
- ✓ Write a question you have about the passage.
- ✓ Write out below, a verse from our passage that stands out to you, that you can meditate on throughout the week.

## Day 2- Hebrews 3:7-9

1. Verses 7b-11 are a quotation from Psalm 95:7-11. In our Hebrews passage, who does the author credit for the message in the Psalm?

Picture and Ponder: “When we hear Scripture, read Scripture, study Scripture, or encounter Scripture in any way, we can be confident God is speaking to us.”<sup>1</sup>

2. What makes it clear in verse 7 that the Bible is not just an ancient book written only for people in the past?



*Father thank you that your word is for me today!*

3. What admonition is the Psalmist giving in verse 8?

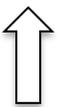
4. Look down to verse 19. What was the cause of Israel's hard heart?

Critical Connections: Read the following verses and answer the question:

-Our Hebrews quote of Psalm 95, mentions the Israelites testing God in the wilderness (v.8) The passage below is one primary example of the people rebelling and testing God in the wilderness. How did the Israelites rebel and test God in this instance?

*Exodus 17:1-2,7 "All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?"... <sup>7</sup> And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"*

Picture and Ponder: "A complaining spirit is always an indicator of unbelief..."<sup>2</sup>



*Lord, forgive me for my complaints that show I really don't believe your ways are wise or good for me. Save me from a hard heart. Help me believe in every circumstance that you are trustworthy.*

5. Why did the Israelites not have any excuse not to trust God according to verse 9b?



God had just delivered the Israelites from a life of slavery in Egypt. He had tormented Pharaoh with plagues that had destroyed the land and brought death, all the while providing protection for his people. He had brought them

through the Red Sea on dry land and then drowned all Pharaoh's soldiers and chariots that were pursuing them. He led them through the wilderness with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. He gave them bread from heaven every morning and meat every night. And yet the minute they got thirsty, they doubted God and rebelled against him. They decided to walk by sight instead of walking by faith in their God who had proved himself abundantly trustworthy.

- ❖ How has God graciously shown himself trustworthy in your life?
  
- ❖ How has God tested your faith?
  
- ❖ What has that testing revealed about your faith?
  
- ❖ What does it look like to harden your heart in a time of trial and testing?
  
- ❖ How does remembering God's past faithfulness lead you to trust him in present trials?

### Day 3- Hebrews 3:10-12

6. How pervasive was Israel's sin according to verse 10?

Scholar's Note: "Heart" (kardia) as used in the Bible does not stand for the emotions as with us but for the whole inner being--thoughts, feelings, and will."<sup>3</sup>

7. The Israelites had experienced God's wonders, but they didn't know his ways. The only reason the Israelites had for not knowing God's ways (v.10) is found in verse 8. What was it?



The most practical thing we can study in the Bible is God himself. We tend to be most concerned with what we can *do*, but knowing God and knowing his ways affects all of our thoughts and actions. It determines how we will respond in trials and suffering, and how we see the world and the people around us. It is the foundation upon which love, trust and obedience, is laid.

- ❖ How can you make knowing God the most important part of your personal Bible study?
  - ❖ In what ways does knowing God affect your daily life?
  - ❖ What area of your life would you like God to have a greater impact on? Spend some time in prayer asking God to help you allow him to affect that area in a more complete way.
8. What were the consequences for Israel's chronic hardness of heart according to verse 11?

Critical Connections: Read the following verses and answer the question:

- What place of rest was that Israelite generation barred from as consequence for their sin?

*Numbers 14:20-23 “The Lord replied, “I have forgiven them, as you asked. Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, not one of the men who saw my glory and the miraculous signs I performed in Egypt and in the desert but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times — not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their forefathers. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.” (NIV)*

9. Using the Israelites as an example of those who began well, but fell away, what warning does the author of Hebrews give in verse 12?

10. What tone is the author using in his warning?

11. Why is it evil to have an unbelieving heart?

For Discussion: How do you think complaining indicates unbelief?



This is the second warning we have received in Hebrews. We are told to take care — our heart needs constant care lest it become hardened and unbelieving.

❖ What in your prayer life regularly addresses the care of your heart?

❖ What other ways can you take care of your heart?

## Day 4- Hebrews 3:13

12. What will help protect from an unbelieving heart according to verse 13?

13. Write the definition of exhort.

14. In verse 13, what shows the urgency and importance that this warning should have? What is at stake?



The Greek word for "exhort" is parakaleo. The prefix para means "to come alongside," and the verb kaleo means "to call out."<sup>4</sup> This is how we are to live the Christian life – alongside one another and out of love, calling out to each other, warning of the dangers that threaten to undo our faith. Reflect on these thoughts:

- ❖ How willing are you to let other Christian friends speak into your life?
- ❖ How willing are you to be open with another Christian about your struggles with sin?
- ❖ How willing are you to lovingly call out a Christian friend on a danger area or attitude?
- ❖ Have you ever looked at this way of living as essential to spiritual life and health?
- ❖ How can you intentionally put this into practice?

15. What is so dangerous about sin according to verse 13?

-Why does this necessitate being in relationship with other Christians and allowing them access to our hearts and lives?

For Discussion: How does prayer and humility play a part in not being deceived by sin?

## Day 5- Hebrews 3:14-19

16. The Hebrews' author gives us another "if indeed" phrase in verse 14. Again what is the proof of our genuine faith?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses and answer the questions:

-How does this verse in 1 John help explain the "if indeed" of verse 14?

*1 John 2:19 "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us."*

-In the following verses underline parts that teach of God's sovereignty and our security in salvation. Circle the parts that show how our effort and energy are involved in continuing in faith.

*1 Corinthians 1:8-9 <sup>8</sup>He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. <sup>9</sup>God will do this, for he is*

*faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” (NLT)*

*Philippians 1:6 “<sup>6</sup> And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”*

*Philippians 2:12b-13 “...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”*

*Philippians 3:12b,14, 16 “...But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. <sup>14</sup> I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. <sup>16</sup> But we must hold on to the progress we have already made.” (NLT)*

*Jude 24-25 “Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever.”*

*1 Peter 1:5-7 “<sup>5</sup> And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see. <sup>6</sup> So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. <sup>7</sup> These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.” (NLT)*

17. Describe your “original confidence” when you first trusted Jesus as your Savior and began living the life of faith.

18. What two things are equated in verses 18 and 19?



The only way to effectively fight sin is to know its' roots. Here we see that the root of disobedience is unbelief. When we find ourselves struggling again and again with a particular sin, we need to ask *what is it we are not believing about God?*

- ❖ What does it say about your heart if you want to ignore sin in your life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- ❖ Think of a sin you struggle with. Trace it back to the root – what are you not believing about God when you commit that sin? Here are a few to get you thinking:

Are you not believing God is good?  
Are you not believing God is wise?  
Are you not believing God is gracious?  
Are you not believing God is sovereign?  
Are you not believing God is just?  
Are you not believing God is powerful?

(Another way to think of it would be to ask, what is the untrue thing you are believing?)

Picture and Ponder: “The issue of faith versus unbelief is at the core of every spiritual issue... Unbelief is the root system that feeds the whole rotten tree of sin...”<sup>5</sup>

One Thing: Look back over this week’s study. Pick one thing that God was stirring in your heart, convicting you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

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<sup>1</sup> Mohler, R. Albert. Exalting Jesus in Hebrews (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary) (p. 49). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Location 1288). Kindle Edition.

<sup>3</sup> Expositor's Commentary Copyright © 1998-2018 Olive Tree Bible Software

<sup>4</sup> Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) Kindle Edition. p. 1416-1417

<sup>5</sup> Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Location 1381). Kindle Edition.

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