

Hebrews 3:6-4:2, Bible Devotions

☐ Monday - The Furnace of Affliction.

Hebrews 3:7-8

“Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, as in the *day of trial* in the wilderness” (Heb. 3:7-8). One of the many reasons God sovereignly orchestrates trials in the lives of His own people is to reveal impure heart attitudes, so that they can be dealt with. When gold is refined in the fire, impurities bubble to the surface and are removed. But for this to happen, [1] the fire must be extremely hot (the melting point of gold is 1948°), and [2] the process must be repeated (up to seven times), until at last nothing is left but pure gold. This is what trials do for God’s people: In the “furnace of affliction” (Isa. 48:10), trials reveal impurities so that they can be confessed and removed. Therefore, “beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you ... as though some strange thing were happening to you” (1 Pet. 4:12), for “When He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold” (Job 23:10).
Read 1 Peter 1:6-7; 4:12

☐ Tuesday - The Deceitfulness of Sin.

Hebrews 3:13

Hebrews warns against “the deceitfulness of sin.” We never sin except under the delusion that it will make us happier. But sin can never produce lasting happiness or true satisfaction. The spoils of sin are sometimes “passing pleasures” (Heb. 11:25), but always personal injury. Spurgeon writes, “You never sin without injuring yourself. The smallest sin that creeps into your heart is a robber seeking to kill and to destroy. You never profited by sin, and never can. No, it is poison, deadly poison to your spirit. You know that it injures your faith, destroys your enjoyment, withers up your peace, weakens you in prayer, and prevents your example being beneficial to others.” Read 1 John 2:29-3:10

☐ Wednesday - Hold Firm Until the End!

Hebrews 3:14

Hebrews makes this condition: “For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end” (Heb. 3:14). Accordingly, not everyone who professes to be a Christian should have confidence and assurance of eternal life, but only those who are “holding fast.” True salvation is God’s work and it is a complete work; that is, it holds “firm until the end.”
Read 2 Peter 1:5-10

☐ Thursday - Hearts of Clay.

Hebrews 3:15

“Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts” (Heb. 3:15). Since we have no control over the future and we cannot change the past, we can only improve our spiritual condition today. God is the Potter, our hearts the clay. Whatever vessel we become depends upon our response today while the clay is soft and malleable. Has God spoken to you about certain changes in your life? Dear friend, make those changes quickly. The clay is already beginning to set!
Read Romans 9:19-23

☐ Friday - Heart Softener.

Hebrews 3:15

Nothing hardens the heart as quickly and thoroughly as when the Word of God is heard but not heeded. The same fire that softens the wax, tempers (hardens) the steel. So also, the same message that softens some hearts will harden others. Not all who frequent even good churches Sunday after Sunday are becoming more tenderhearted. No, while some hearts are being tenderized under the power of God’s Word, others are becoming as hard as rock by the same message. And so, “Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts” (Heb. 3:15).
Read Rev. 3:1