



10/6/25

What an amazing God we have that He would call us to take time for rest, and that He would consecrate that time as holy. He wants us to work hard for Him, and He wants us to rest hard in Him, knowing that He is able to sustain us in both. We have a good God!!!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Hebrews 3:7-19

On the 7th day, God rested. He had completed His masterpiece. He invites me to enter His rest... to enjoy the completeness I have in Him. What gets in the way of me experiencing rest with Him? Not Him. Me. My hard heart... as I see in Hebrews 3.

Vs. 7-11 ~ Therefore... because I am in Christ with Him as my foundation, and because my confidence and boasting and hope are in Him (vs. 6)... the Holy Spirit Himself gives me warning against hardening my heart.

My heart naturally drifts toward a hardening. I have to continue to remind myself of my confidence... Jesus Christ. I need to continue to lay down boasting in SELF and boast in the Lord instead. I need to continue to place my hope in the Lord and in eternity with Him, rather than putting my hope in my circumstances.

So the Holy Spirit encourages me to remember what happened to the Israelites in the wilderness, so that I can learn from their mistakes. They rebelled against God over and over again during the 40 years of their wandering. Their faith was tested and they came up short. God continued to provide for them and they continued to question His love, power, and wisdom.

God said, "They ALWAYS go astray in their heart; they have not known My ways." They wandered in the desert because of their lack of faith... so they wandered in their hearts. They didn't know... personally experience relationship... with God. Their choice to drift from God was not just a one time thing. They consistently rebelled against God and hardened their heart

toward Him. Because of their rebellion, God did not allow their generation to enter His rest, the Promised Land.

What about me? Is my confidence in the Lord? Do I harden my heart toward Him? Do I question His faithfulness? Do I use my doubt as an excuse to wander from Him, as though His faithfulness has to be tested rather than mine? God is always faithful. He never goes astray in His heart.

O Lord, it is never You who fail me, but I who fail You. Please help me to hear Your voice and walk in the way You call me to walk. Help me not to wander from You. Help me not to question Your love for me. You were able to miraculously provide for the Israelites. Please help me to trust and remember that You will do the same for me, not because of who I am, but because of who You are.

Vs. 12-13 ~ I need to take heed... actively examine my own heart. Any doubt that I have leads me to fall away from my living God. This is why I can't focus on what I don't know. I need to focus on what I do know. Whatever I can hold true to in scripture will draw me closer to the Lord, and I will know Him more and better. If I focus all my attention on the things I don't know, I will doubt the Lord because of my ignorance and drift away from Him. 1 Corinthians 10:12 says, "Let anyone who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." I can't just assume I will be completely devoted to the Lord without being intentional, just like I can't have any good relationship without being intentional.

I'm not alone in my struggle. All believers are susceptible to drifting away from the Lord if we're not intentional. One of the gifts God gives us is other believers. We have a responsibility to encourage each other to focus on what we know to be true... every single day... so that NONE of us may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Sin is deceitful. Sin hardens the heart. Sin causes doubt. Sin drives us away from the Lord. Sin does not acknowledge the Lord for who He is. Sin steals my confidence in the Lord. Sin makes me focus on boasting in me rather than the Lord. Sin makes me feel hopeless about where God is in my life. It is never God who fails me. It is I who choose to allow sin to harden my heart through deception. My job is to intentionally stay focused on the truth through His word... and encourage others to do the same... and receive encouragement from others who seek the Lord.

Vs. 14-15 ~ All who know Christ Jesus share in Christ Jesus. He is the way, the truth, and the life. He is our Savior. Without sharing in Him, we have no share in salvation. By sharing in Him, we have eternal life. The evidence of our relationship with Jesus is that we hold firm our confidence in Him all the way until He takes us home... rather than letting our hearts drift and get hard.

Truly, the more I grow in Christ, the more I will recognize His voice. The more I recognize His voice and know Him, the less I will harden my heart. Let me learn what NOT to do from how the Israelites handled their time in the wilderness. If they would have trusted God to do the

impossible from day 1, they would never have had to wander for 40 years. During that 40 years, they did not just camp in one place. They continued to have to tear down and rebuild their tents and the tabernacle as they went from place to place and battle to battle. They had no rest because their hearts were hard.

Vs. 16-17 ~ The Israelites left Egypt because God delivered them... They heard God's voice, but they did not listen to God's voice. Instead, they rebelled against the one who set them free. They continued to provoke Him for 40 years. And the Lord did not let that generation enter His rest. He keeps His word, even when keeping His word is hard.

What was their sin that kept them out of the promised land? Unbelief. Unbelief hardens the heart and leads to more and more sin. This isn't what God wants. He WANTS me to experience the joy of His rest. He wants me to experience His confidence and peace. That's why the Holy Spirit warns me to listen.

O Lord, please help me to pay close attention and to be intentional about listening to You. Help me to encourage other believers to listen to You. Help my heart to stay close to You, confident in You, boasting in You alone, and putting all my hope in You. Romans 15:4 says, "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." Thank You for writing it all down so that I could know how to endure the draw to harden my heart and instead draw close to You and have hope. Amen.