

Encouraging Our Brothers and Sisters

Hebrews 3:10-13, 4:1-16

Perseverance is a community project.

3:12 Take care, *brethren*, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God.

13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

The emphasis of Hebrews is on a
constructive use of our tongues.
We must speak to the heart.

The three encouragements to be shared

1. God has promised us His rest **4:1-11**,
let us strive to enter it. v. 11
2. God gives two aids for wrestling with our
deceptive heart **vv. 12, 13**
3. God has provided an experienced,
competent helper. **vv. 14-16**

1. God has promised us His rest vv. 3-11

V. 3 the writer of Hebrews gives encouragement that God's purposes of bringing a people into His rest have not been frustrated or abandoned. On the contrary, 4:1 says, *"the promise remains of entering His rest..."* 4:3 *"For we who have believed do enter that rest..."*

**What is the rest that
God is promising?**

A. The rest is called “My rest”. *Is it the rest which God took on the seventh day of creation? vv. 3-7*

Genesis 2:2-3 “And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.³ Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.”

B. V. 8, Is this rest the promise given to Joshua that he would lead the people into the land?

That would be the conclusion understood by **3:19**, *“They (the Israelites in the wilderness) could not enter in because of unbelief.”*

Joshua 21:44 *“The Lord gave them rest
on every side just as He’d sworn to their
ancestors.”*

C. V. 9 There still remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. And that future rest has the characteristics of the creation Sabbath rest.

God is saying, in **verses 9-11a**, what we do together *today* is meant to be a little taste of that rest to come?

God is giving a gift of Sabbath rest
that is *Restorative, Relational* and
Enduring.

Practical Admonitions vv. 9-11

A. *Our rest that is yet to come. v. 9-10*

It is where the term **RIP** comes from. It is a heavenly rest that is given by God to those who trust in Him. He's asking you not to put your hope in this life or in this world.

B. *We are called to fear unbelief. v. 1, 11*
He is saying, “*constantly fear being lost.*”

This is not foreign to the NT:
Philippians 2:12-13.

C. *We are called to fight unbelief together!* **3:13** We are to care enough about each other not to let unbelief in God's promises to creep into His Church.

The greatest danger to each of us is an unexamined heart.

2. Because our hearts are easily deceived, God has blessed us with two things that test the heart. *We need to let the Word of God and the God of the Word do their work in our lives.* vs. 11-13

What helps discern your heart?

1. The Word of God, v. 12 It can divide things that are indivisible and it can pierce down to the depths of your soul.

“Go to the Word and ask the God of the Word to test your heart. What do I believe and where is my hope?”

Joshua 1:8 “This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

2. He reminds you in **v. 13**. *“The Lord sees your heart, ask Him repeatedly to test it and lead you in godliness.”*

Psalm 139:23-24 “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.”

**3. God gives us an experienced,
competent helper. vv. 14-16**

What is our confession that we hold?

By faith, Jesus, God's Son has saved me from my sin by his death on the cross. He is now my Savior and the Lord of my life. I will love and serve Him daily.

1:2 “after making purification for our sins,
He sat down at the right hand of the
majesty on high.

2:14 Inasmuch then as the children have shared in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in flesh and blood, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

2:17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. **18** For in that He Himself has suffered,

b

tempted.

4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.

16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Let us....

1 fear lest any of you seem to have come

short of God's rest.

11 be diligent to enter that rest.

14 hold fast your confession.

16 come boldly to the throne of grace,
that you may obtain mercy and find
grace to help in time of need.