



Hebrews 3:7-11

FAILURE TO KNOW AND SUBMIT TO GOD'S WAYS IS DISASTROUS

Take the promises and warnings of Scripture to heart (3:7-9)

⁷ *Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says,*

- ❖ The writer of Hebrews affirms the authority of Scripture
 - ❖ The beginning of the letter
 - ❖ Hebrews 1:1
 - ❖ Our current passage – “*Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says...*”
 - ❖ Quoting a Psalm (the songbook of God’s people), what is affirmed is that through the Holy Spirit, God inspires the Scripture referenced here
 - ❖ Scripture comes with God-given clarity and authority
 - ❖ 2 Timothy 3:16–17
 - ❖ 2 Peter 1:21
 - ❖ Hebrews 4:12
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- ❖ “Therefore” – the writer of Hebrews connects this passage with the preceding verse
 - ❖ “...but Christ is faithful over God’s house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.”
 - ❖ The point that was just made is that believers are shown to be part of the house or temple Jesus established as the Son of God by persevering in the faith and boasting in the hope Jesus gives
 - ❖ The writer of Hebrews will now give Scriptural examples of what it looks like not to persevere
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Take the promises and warnings of Scripture to heart (3:7-9)

“Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸ do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, ⁹ where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years.

- ❖ The quotation presented here is taken from Psalm 95
 - ❖ The Psalm presents our great God and King, who is the creator, sustainer, and giver of all the people of His pasture need (Psalm 95:1-7a)
 - ❖ The second part of the Psalm gives warning to the Israelites at the time of David from two events associated with the Exodus of Israel from Egypt and their journey through the wilderness to the Promised Land (Psalm 95:7b-11)
 - ❖ Psalm 95:7–11
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❖ This portion of the lyrics of the Psalm refers to two events

1. Exodus 17:1-7 – God just provided Manna, but as they moved into the wilderness, the people and livestock became thirsty – God supplies water after Moses struck the rock

❖ “*rebellion*” or quarreling (Meribah) – actions flowing from bitter irritation and anger, spoken the Moses as the representative of God

❖ “*testing*” (Massah) – thinking they can subject God to their examination and find Him wanting – “Is the Lord among us or not?”

❖ Their trust in God’s care wavered when hardships came

2. Numbers 14:21-35

❖ The enemies, hardships, and challenges are undeniable

❖ But rebelling and putting God to the test is unacceptable

❖ The writer of Hebrews shows the abiding authority of Scripture by applying it to ethnic Jewish Christians of his day (“*Today if you hear his voice*”)

❖ The word of God has abiding authority for us as well! (“*Today if you hear his voice*”)

Provoking God with faithless grumbling and ingratitude is costly (3:10-11)

¹⁰ *Therefore I was provoked with that generation,*

- ❖ The people of God in the exodus and in the wilderness wanderings griped and complained incessantly, provoking God by not appreciating their deliverance from Egyptian bondage
 - ❖ We, too, have been delivered from the bondage and blessed with the presence of God
 - ❖ Our journey of progressive sanctification is filled with refining challenges and loving provisions of grace and truth
 - ❖ The Lord is faithful to help us advance the gospel of the kingdom faithfully as we, as the people of God, journey toward eternity
 - ❖ Though we are not ethnic Jews, the work of Jesus unites us as one people with a Scriptural history
 - ❖ Ephesians 2:11–13
 - ❖ Because we are no longer strangers to the covenants and promises, we need to listen to the warnings as well
 - ❖ This life brings many fires of refinement
 - ❖ Perseverance without grumbling and complaining is necessary
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Provoking God with faithless grumbling and ingratitude is costly (3:10-11)

and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.'

- ❖ Hearts must be kept in check
 - ❖ How? By knowing the ways of God as recorded in the word of God
 - ❖ We need to be familiar with the character of God and the demands of God in Scripture
 - ❖ We need to learn the ways of God from knowing both the Old and New Testaments
 - ❖ Grumbling and complaining are given no quarter in the New Testament
 - ❖ Grumbling reveals an ungrateful heart
 - ❖ Romans 1:21
 - ❖ Paul warns the church in Philippi about grumbling
 - ❖ Philippians 2:14
 - ❖ Philippians 4:6
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Provoking God with faithless grumbling and ingratitude is costly (3:10-11)

¹¹ As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest.’”

- ❖ When the people of God fail to obey God with a glad and sincere heart, it reveals they are not right with God, and eternal peace with God does not exist
 - ❖ Such a warning should not be taken lightly
 - ❖ We need to listen, learn, and abide
 - ❖ People of God, know your God
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Questions to Consider

- ❖ What does it mean to you to know that all of Scripture comes with the authority of Almighty God?
 - ❖ From the passages referenced in this passage, what does it look like not to persevere in the faith?
 - ❖ What should you do about the genuine hardships and afflictions you and your family face in life?
 - ❖ Why is a thorough knowledge of God's character and ways revealed in Scripture supposed to be important to you?
 - ❖ Why do we need to take both the promises and the warnings of Scripture to heart?
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