

Hebrews 3:7 -4:2
Encourage One Another Daily

“It is possible for believers, here called ‘brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling,’ to depart from the living God through neglect and disobedience, being saved but defeated, failing God and never reaching spiritual maturity and victory. Salvation is the free gift of God, but to become ‘partakers of the reward’ means holding ‘the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end.’ It is in no sense a matter of salvation, but a question of communion and fellowship. By faith our standing in Christ is assured once for all, but there is more than just standing. Some Christians are so satisfied with their standing, security and position in grace that they do nothing else but ‘stand.’ They have stood for years just where they started. But to make progress means to walk. Our union with Christ assures our standing; our communion depends upon our walking.” Dehaan

- I. We are in a battle for control of the mind, and it’s an intense one. One of the sure ways to counter the way the world and its demonic system thinks is by making sure we steadfastly fix our thoughts on Jesus. It’s comparing how the world thinks with Scripture. As true followers of Christ, we must make sure all things pass through the lens of Scripture so that we can think the way Jesus thinks. His objective inerrant standard never changes, shifts, vacillates or is defined by the world. It is a standard of truth, safety, moral absolutes, wisdom, guidance, and direction in all matters of life. Without it, we are doomed to buy into the influence and control of a godless system of belief whose sole purpose is to control our minds and thus keep us from standing firmly in the faith.

Heb. 3:1-6
Eph. 6:10-12
2 Ti. 1:7

1 Jn. 5:19 *We know that we are the children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.*

II. The danger we must remain aware of is letting the world influence our thinking in ways that put doubt in our minds toward God's Word. As soon as we allow that to happen, we put ourselves at risk of trusting in man instead of putting our trust in God and the veracity of his Word. We are exhorted in 1 Cor. 16:13 to be on our guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. He alone is the one who enables us to do that, and that is why we must trust him no matter what the world throws at us as it tries to get us to compromise our stand for Him.

Heb. 3:7-11
Ps. 95:7-11
Ps. 95:1-6
1 Timothy 4:1
Heb. 10:91
Jn. 1:7

ἀπιστία apistía, ap-is-tee'-ah; faithlessness, i.e. (negatively) disbelief (lack of Christian faith), or (positively) unfaithfulness (disobedience):—unbelief.

πιστεύω pisteúō, pist-yoo'-o; to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), i.e. by implication, to entrust (especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ):—believe(-r), commit (to trust), put in trust with.

*Unbelief is not inability to understand, but **unwillingness to trust**...it is the will, not the intelligence, that is involved." (Newell)*

1 Jn. 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

III. Our walk with Christ is never to be without embracing his body, the church. He said that he would never leave nor forsake us, and one of the primary ways he does that is through koinonia, i.e., the fellowship of other believers. His body is meant to provide us with encouragement, spiritual nourishment and accountability so that we are better able to stay true to him as we face the world and its deception together. It is one of the ways we share in Christ so that we can be used by him to encourage one another to stand firm and remain confident in the faith.

Heb. 3:13-14:2
1 Thess. 5:4-11

παρακαλέω parakaléō, to call to one's side, call for, summon, to encourage, strengthen, exhorting and comforting and encouraging, to instruct, teach.

Heb. 10:25 *Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*