



10.9.2011 Series: *Keeping It Together When Life Falls Apart (Hebrews #2)*

“HEARING GOD’S VOICE”

So, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the wilderness, where your ancestors tested and tried me, though for forty years they saw what I did. See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.

Hebrews 3:7-9, 12-14

I. WHAT IS HARDENING THE HEART?

1. Pharaoh was disobedient and stubborn (Exo 5:2; 7:3; 9:24-35)
2. King Belshazzar was hardened by pride (Dan 5:20)
3. King Zedekiah would not turn to God (2 Chron 36:13-14)
4. The people of Bethel would not listen to the word of God (Zech 7:12)
5. The law of divorce was because men’s hearts were hard (Matt 19:8)
6. The disciples could not learn because their hearts were hard, their minds were closed (Mark 6:52; Mark 8:17)
7. Some did not believe the Risen Lord because their hearts were hard (Mark 16:14)
8. Without Christ we are ignorant due to the hardening of their hearts” (Eph 4:18).

II. WHAT CAUSES THE HARDENING OF THE HEART?

1. Testing (Heb 3:8; Deut 8:2-3; James 1:2-4)
2. Unbelief (Heb 3:12, 19; Nu 13, 14)
3. Sin’s deceitfulness (Heb 3:13; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 Cor 11:3)

III. WHAT IS THE CURE?

“We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly to the end the confidence we had at first” (Heb 3:14).

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws” (Ezek 36:26-27)