



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Now is the time to listen to God!

Scripture: Hebrews 3:7-15

Many times, the Bible warns us not to harden our hearts. To *“harden our hearts”* means to stubbornly set ourselves against God so that we are no longer able to turn to Him for forgiveness. Let us be careful to obey God’s Word and not allow our hearts to become hardened, and exhort one another to follow through on what God said in His Word. When we harden our heart, we allow unbelief to come in, therefore we must constantly be on guard against the deceitfulness of sin, the temptation of the devil, and the weakness of the flesh. Solomon tells us, *“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life”* (Proverbs 4:23). Make sure we concentrate on the Word of God and it will keep us on the right path and direction.

The cause of a hardened heart is unbelief, which nullifies everything God does to prevent a hardened heart. All His instructions, warnings, promises, blessings, and judgment are just noise to the deaf ears of those filled with unbelief. Therefore, it will lead us away from the living God when we stubbornly refuse to believe Him. If we persist in our unbelief, God will eventually leave us alone in our sin.

God is using the power of His Word today to reconcile the unsaved to Himself, and His Word will not return to Him void, but it shall accomplish that which He pleases. God’s Word will condemn us if we ignore and disobey it, **but His Word was designed to change and convert us**. The Word of God is of no profit to us if it is not mixed with faith (Hebrews 4:2). A hardened heart is a corrosive element that destroys every beneficial factor in our spiritual lives. When we harden our heart, it is like an acid eating away a piece of steel. Eventually, there is nothing left but a rusty stain where steel once was. If the sin of unbelief is left unchecked in our hearts, we will depart from serving the living God. The only way we can neutralize a hardened heart is by reading, and studying the Word of God.

If we do not harden our hearts, God is able to restore us not only physically but spiritually. To accomplish this, He would give us a new heart for following Him and put His Spirit within us (Ezekiel 36:26-27). **No matter how impure your life is right now, God offers you a fresh start.** You can have your sins washed away, receive a new heart from God, and have His Spirit within you—if you accept God’s promise. To prevent having an unbelieving heart, stay in fellowship with God through prayer, reading the Word, fasting, meditating on His Word and stay in fellowship with other believers, talk daily about your mutual faith, and encourage one another with love and concern.

Many loud voices are competing for our attention in this generation. Only one voice is really important and that is still, a small voice of the Holy Spirit. **We all wrestle with the question of how we can know God is speaking to us.** First, we must realize God always speaks to us through His Word. And He has given us the fivefold ministry (Ephesians 4:11-13). **God sometimes uses others to speak to us one-on-one.** We should spend quiet time with the Lord, that means putting down our cell phones, the book we are reading, or turning off the TV, or turning off the radio when we are driving.

The message of the Book of Revelation was directed to seven churches in Asia Minor. In the Lord’s address to each church, He said, *“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”* **Do you have an ear to hear?**

The Word of God is warning us to take heed, seeing to it that we do not fail God as many in Israel did and were cut off. Paul also quoted the words as a warning to the people of God who could, through temptation and sin, fail to receive the eternal rest promised. This lesson of the wilderness are serious warnings to New Testament believers to avoid the same pitfalls of unbelief. The promises that God has given to us are a demonstration of His love. He also has prepared a Promised Land for us New Jerusalem. He has promised to come again to take us home with Him. **Our lack of faith and obedience will not change the fulfillment of the promise; it will only exclude us.** We must be on guard against an evil heart that is deadened by unbelief and stiffened by an attitude of self-sufficiency.

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Do you have an ear to hear?