

# sermon notes

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Pastor Tony Caffey, Verse By Verse Fellowship | Christ Supreme in All Things  
November 13, 2022 | “Don’t Harden Your Hearts” | **Hebrews 3:7-19**

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## How do we battle hard hearts as followers of Jesus?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit (3:7-11)
  
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ one another daily (3:12-13)
  
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ our faith not unbelief (3:14-19)

## Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

### GO DEEPER

Read Hebrews 3:7-11 and Psalm 95:1-11. How did Israel harden their hearts in the wilderness? Why was this hardness of heart such an affront to God? How had God shown them kindness in their lifetime? How was his power demonstrated in the wilderness and previously in Egypt?

Read Hebrews 3:12-19. The author of Hebrews says in 3:14, “For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.” What does it mean to “share in Christ?” What does it mean to “hold our original confidence firm to the end?” What is the significance of the word “if” in this verse? Connect this “if” to the “if” in 3:6.

### GET PERSONAL

The author of Hebrews is concerned that hearts might be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. How do we guard against hardness of heart? Are there sins in your life that you refuse to put to death (see Rom 6:12; 8:13; Gal 5:24; Col 3:5; 1 Thess 4:3; 1 Pet 2:11; 1 John 3:9)? Are you at war with your sin? Do you regularly confess your sin to other brothers or sisters in your church to prevent the hardening of your heart?

A repeated command in Hebrews is to heed God’s voice and press on in faith. How do we hear God’s voice (his “Word”!) in our modern-day era? A warning in this book is that disbelief in God leads to a hard heart followed by disobedience and destruction. How is this exemplified in the Scriptures with the Israelites? How have you seen this demonstrated in the lives of Christians? What about “professing” Christians who prove themselves unbelievers (i.e. false converts, see Matt 7:21-23; 1 Cor 15:1-4; 2 Cor 13:5; 1 John 2:19)?

### PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

We are told to exhort one another daily to prevent the hardness of our hearts (3:13). How should this exhortation take place in the church? Who exhorts you daily concerning sin and hardness of heart? Who do you exhort daily in this regard? Does the author of Hebrews assume a corporate environment (i.e. a church) for obedience to this command? Is it possible to obey Hebrew 3:13 in isolation from other Christians? What prevents us from exhorting others or opening ourselves up to being exhorted?

### ADVANCED QUESTION

The author of Hebrews references the OT (Psalm 95) with the statement “as the Holy Spirit says” (3:7). How does this affirm the doctrine of inspiration (see 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:21)? Does this negate human authorship of Scripture? What is the significance of the present tense “says” instead of “said” in 3:7?

For more on the doctrine of inspiration, see the following video:

<https://app.vidgrid.com/view/Jp1kvfJZcEyN>