



Hebrews 3-4



Hebrews 3

¹ And so, dear brothers and sisters who belong to God and are partners with those called to heaven, think carefully about this Jesus whom we declare to be God's messenger and High Priest. ² For he was faithful to God, who appointed him, just as Moses served faithfully when he was entrusted with God's entire house.

³ But Jesus deserves far more glory than Moses, just as a person who builds a house deserves more praise than the house itself. ⁴ For every house has a builder, but the one who built everything is God.

Hebrews 3

⁵ Moses was certainly faithful in God's house as a servant. His work was an illustration of the truths God would reveal later. ⁶ But Christ, as the Son, is in charge of God's entire house. And we are God's house, if we keep our courage and remain confident in our hope in Christ.

⁷ That is why the Holy Spirit says,

Hebrews 3

^{7b} “Today when you hear his voice,⁸ don’t harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled, when they tested me in the wilderness. ⁹ There your ancestors tested and tried my patience, even though they saw my miracles for forty years.

¹⁰ So I was angry with them, and I said, ‘Their hearts always turn away from me. They refuse to do what I tell them.’

¹¹ So in my anger I took an oath: ‘They will never enter my place of rest.’”

Hebrews 3

¹² Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. ¹³ You must warn each other every day, while it is still “today,” so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. ¹⁴ For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ.

Hebrews 3

¹⁵ Remember what it says:

“Today when you hear his voice,
don’t harden your hearts
as Israel did when they rebelled.”

Hebrews 3

¹⁶ And who was it who rebelled against God, even though they heard his voice? Wasn't it the people Moses led out of Egypt? ¹⁷ And who made God angry for forty years? Wasn't it the people who sinned, whose corpses lay in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom was God speaking when he took an oath that they would never enter his rest? Wasn't it the people who disobeyed him? ¹⁹ So we see that because of their unbelief they were not able to enter his rest.

Hebrews 4

¹ God's promise of entering his rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that some of you might fail to experience it. ² For this good news—that God has prepared this rest—has been announced to us just as it was to them. But it did them no good because they didn't share the faith of those who listened to God. ³ For only we who believe can enter his rest. As for the others, God said,

“In my anger I took an oath:

‘They will never enter my place of rest,’”

even though this rest has been ready since he made the world.

Hebrews 4

- ⁴ We know it is ready because of the place in the Scriptures where it mentions the seventh day: “On the seventh day God rested from all his work.” ⁵ But in the other passage God said, “They will never enter my place of rest.”
- ⁶ So God’s rest is there for people to enter, but those who first heard this good news failed to enter because they disobeyed God. ⁷ So God set another time for entering his rest, and that time is today. God announced this through David much later in the words already quoted:
- “Today when you hear his voice,
don’t harden your hearts.”

Hebrews 4

⁸ Now if Joshua had succeeded in giving them this rest, God would not have spoken about another day of rest still to come. ⁹ So there is a special rest still waiting for the people of God. ¹⁰ For all who have entered into God's rest have rested from their labors, just as God did after creating the world. ¹¹ So let us do our best to enter that rest. But if we disobey God, as the people of Israel did, we will fall.

Hebrews 4

¹² For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.

What struck you in this passage?

What did you find difficult to understand?

What does this “and so” relate to in Hebrew
3:1?

¹ And so, dear brothers and sisters who belong to God and are partners with those called to heaven, think carefully about this Jesus whom we declare to be God’s messenger and High Priest.

Some key lines in Hebrews 2

² So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it.

¹⁸ Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.

What is the rest that is being talked about?

For only we who believe can enter his rest...

God's promise of entering his rest still stands...

Thoughts about God's rest

In Genesis – God resting after creation; humanity before the fall

In Exodus

- Being in God's presence (tabernacle)
- **Being in the land God promised**

In the Gospels

- Living in relationship with Jesus
- Living in the presence of the Holy Spirit

In Revelation

- **Being resurrected to eternal life in heaven**



Why did God not allow the Hebrews in
Exodus to enter his rest?

*I took an oath:
'They will never enter my place of rest'*

But what about Joshua? Did the Hebrews find rest?

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God announced this through David much later in the words already quoted: "Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts."

Now if Joshua had succeeded in giving them this rest, God would not have spoken about another day of rest still to come.

But what about Joshua? Did the Hebrews find rest?

Belief or obedience?

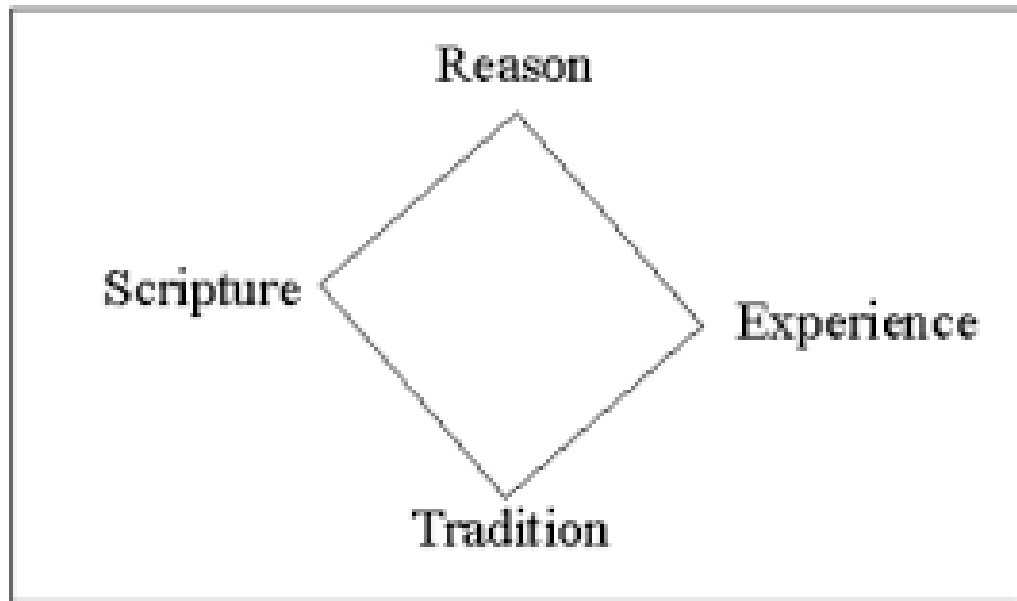
³ For only we who believe can enter his rest.

⁶ So God's rest is there for people to enter, but those who first heard this good news failed to enter because they disobeyed God.

Can we lose our faith or eternal life?

You must warn each other every day, while it is still “today,” so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. ¹⁴ For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ.

Can we lose our faith?



Wesleyan Quadrilateral

What does tradition (church teachings and denominations) tell us?

What does your reason tell you?

What does experience tell you?

What does Scripture say?

Belief or obedience?

³ For only we who believe can enter his rest.

⁶ So God's rest is there for people to enter, but those who first heard this good news failed to enter because they disobeyed God.

A double-edged sword

¹² For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.



Reflection

God knows our deepest secrets....

Think

- Ravi Zaccharia
- King David

Reflection

God knows your heart and soul... You can't hide anything from him...

Do you need to be honest with yourself, repent and reconnect?