Hebrews Part One

Lesson #12, Chapter 3:7-12

Read 3:1-12 before beginning this lesson.

1. What unique quality do you discover about the Holy Spirit in vs. 7? See also Acts 1:16; 28:25; 2 Pet. 1:21.
2. The section for this lesson of Hebrews contains a quote from Ps. 95. The original Hebrews readers would have known and understood the many cultural references in Ps. 95. In order to gain the full impact of what the writer is trying to impart, read some sections below of Israel’s history, which is a crash course in a small, but crucial part of Israelite history.
   1. Briefly summarize the circumstances of Ex. 17:1-7:
   2. Briefly summarize the circumstances of Num. 20:3-13:
   3. Briefly summarize the circumstances of Num. 13:25-33; 14:1-10, 20-34:
   4. What details are left out of Heb. 3:7-11 which are present in Ps. 95:7-11?
3. Based upon your study thus far in this chapter what does the writer think the Hebrews are in danger of doing (vs. 12)?
4. What kinds of things were happening in their lives that would contribute to this attitude? You may need to skim through the book of Hebrews to answer this question.
5. The writer of Hebrews uses Israel’s history to warn and encourage the believers when he quotes from Ps. 95. What crucial information does 1 Cor. 10:6, 11-13 give us about the reason for doing this? Why is that helpful to remember as we study this lesson from Heb. 3:7-12?
6. Since Israel is given as an example for us to follow so that we won’t make the same mistakes and fall into the same sins, then we need to earnestly heed the warnings given to us here. In vs. 7 we are told, *“Today if you hear His voice.”* How do we hear God’s voice? See Titus 1:3; 1 Pet. 1:23-25; 2 Pet. 1:12-21.
7. *Today*, did you really *hear* God’s voice? First, did you spend some time with Him pouring over His Word given to you in the Bible? Second, how did you respond to it? Did you hear it so that it would produce a change in you? Was your heart quickened and softened by the Word you *heard* in the Bible? If you didn’t hear God’s voice today by spending heart working time with Him through His Word, then what are you going to do about it? What do you need to do to make sure you hear His Word today?
8. The Israelites hardened their hearts against God during the wilderness time. Read Deut. 8:1-6 and record what you learn about God’s purposes for taking them through the wilderness time.
9. God takes each of His children into the wilderness to teach them to rely upon Him and to trust Him. Think about the different circumstances in your life right now. What is your response toward God as you go through each situation? Are you hardening your heart against God? How are you learning from Israel’s example and trying to depend upon the Lord?
10. What was the result of Israel hardening their heart against God? See vss. 9-11.
11. What kind of rest did God intend for Israel as mentioned in vs. 11? See Deut. 12:9-10; Josh. 21:43-45.
12. The *rest* spoken about in vs. 11 is a picture of a future rest. What do you learn about that *rest* from the following verses: Heb. 4:3, 8-9; Matt. 11:28-29; and Rom. 5:1.
13. How does knowing that God intended Israel’s rest in the Promised Land to be a picture of our spiritual rest in Christ, make the warning of vs. 12 all the more potent?
14. What is the remedy against a hard, testing God type of heart (vs. 12)? What do you learn about this remedy as stated in the following verses: 2 Cor. 13:5; Col. 2:8; 2 Pet. 1:5-11; 1 Jn. 2:18-24?
15. A remedy is something that corrects or counteracts something. You have just looked up verses that urge you to take your “remedy” so that you will not be like the Israelites of old. Spend some time right now pouring the verses above into your spoon so you can take your remedy. Ask the Lord to help you see if there is any hurtful way in you (Ps. 139:23-24) that needs correcting.
16. What kind of heart falls away from God? See vs. 12.
17. What kind of heart were we born with? Gen. 8:21; Jer. 17:9; Mark 7:21-23.
18. We all know that every believer is capable of evil and unbelief. We also know that every believer is growing into the likeness of Jesus Christ, but that the flesh wages war against the new spirit of Christ in us. You need to consider this question: *How much evil (sinful patterns) and unbelief can I allow to run free in my heart before it sweeps me off the ledge of trust and safety into the chasm of unbelief and rebellion?*
19. What do you need to know and do when you see evil and unbelief cropping up in your life?
20. What kind of heart stays true to God? See vs. 12; 1 Cor. 10:12; Col. 2:2-3; 1 Pet. 3:15; 1 Jn. 2:19.
21. Verse 12 tells us to *take* *care* [Strong’s #991(NKJV *beware*; NIV *see to it*)]. Define that word and then explain why it is so important for us to take care.
22. How often should you consider the warnings of Hebrews? See vss. 7 and 13.
23. What kind of responsibility does that place upon you? What are some practical ways you can daily examine your heart each day?

“You made us for Yourself, and our hearts find no peace till they rest in You.” ~Augustine

“The next distressing sign of growing hardness is increasing neglect or laxity of private devotion, without any corresponding shock of the spiritual sensibilities on account of it. The daily prayer will become shorter and shorter, if not irregular; occasionally the period allotted to the reading of the Word will be given to business or worldly pleasure, and perhaps frequently forgotten and neglected. It may peradventure have happened at the first that on some occasion we could not conveniently read the Scriptures according to our wont, and our prayers were necessarily shortened, but then we sought to make up for the loss at the first opportunity, and we felt like men who having been cut short at their meals, must needs eat the more freely next time. But now I am afraid these things become common with some professors, and they scarcely care to invent an excuse for their slackness in divine things. O what poor pleas do some men offer for deserting their closets! How unjustly may unread Bibles accuse those pretenders to grace who treat them so ill! Alas, brethren, we may look each other in the face and few of us can plead “Guiltless.” Divine Spirit, help us to awake out of sleep, and to shake off this deadly lethargy.” ~Charles Spurgeon[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. Charles H. Spurgeon, *Spurgeon’s Sermons: Volume 11*, electronic ed., Logos Library System (Albany, OR: Ages Software, 1998). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)