Introduction

This is the second warning in Hebrews. It is a warning against unbelief.

To emphasize his point, the author of Hebrews chose a passage that was familiar to every one of his readers. Psalm 95:7-11

This psalm was read as a call to worship on every Sabbath evening in every Jewish synagogue.

He writes to warn and encourage us to stay faithful to Jesus.

I. Be wise. Verses 7-11

Now is the time to obey!

“As the Holy Spirit says.”

“Today if you hear his voice, don’t harden your heart.”

Clearly the children of Israel didn’t get it.

No generation saw more miracles over a longer period of time than they did.

- The 10 Plagues.
- The Passover.
- The parting of the sea.
- The destruction of Pharaoh’s army.
- The pillar of cloud by day and fire by night.
- They ate God’s bread from heaven – manna.
- They heard God’s voice on the mountain and saw his glory fill the tabernacle.

Because of their unbelief, they would not be allowed to enter the Promised Land.

II. Be tender-hearted. Verse 12

How does a heart grow cold and hard?

- Through sin and disobedience.
- Through neglect or indifference.
- Through bitterness or unforgiveness.
Through idolatry.

Ten times in the wilderness, the Israelites grumbled and complained against God.

“They set themselves up as judges over God and refused to put their trust in him unless God did what they demanded.” Philip E. Hughes

Do we do that when things don’t go the way we think they should?

Faith is trusting God even when we don’t understand what he may be doing.

III. Be in fellowship. Verse 13

“Encourage one another daily.”

We need one another.

- It is possible to be blind to our own sin.
- Or sometimes we can be discouraged or want to run away and quit.

For the writer of Hebrews, one of the keys to remaining faithful is to be connected to a healthy church.

We need people who will speak the truth in love when we go astray.

We need people who will encourage us to grow and become the person God made us to be.

IV. Be faithful. Verses 14-19

“We have come to share in Christ, if we hold firmly to the end the confidence we had at first.”

A genuine faith is durable.

What the Scripture is saying is that Point A is true (We have come to share in Christ.) if Point B is true (We hold firmly to the end.).

We find the same thought in other places in Scripture.

- “You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.” Romans 8:9
- “But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight...if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.” Colossians 1:22-23
- “We know that we have come to know him, if we obey his commands.” I John 2:3

The proof of our faith is seen in how we live.
Conclusion

If we are going to be faithful and walk with God all our life.

- We need to fix our thoughts on Jesus and walk in fellowship with him.
- We need to choose to obey even when the way is hard and we don’t know what God is doing.
- We need to be connected to a healthy church for teaching and encouragement.