

Title: *The Caution From The Holy Spirit*

Text: Hebrews 3:8-11 (we will study Vs 8-11)

This morning we began ~~and~~ looking at ~~Hebrews chapter 3 verses 7-11.~~ *This second Warning Passage in Hebrews*

Please take your Bibles and turn to Hebrews chapter 3. This is the second Warning passage in the Book of Hebrews. There are 5 warning passages.

Again, I remind you that Paul is writing to Jewish believers who, because of persecution, ~~had~~ were tempted to return to the safe haven of Judisam. And Paul is warning them not to do that. And if they do, it only proves that they have never really come to trust Jesus.

Verses 7 thru 11 concerns a great Caution that comes from the Holy Spirit. And the warning is that if you hear the voice of the Holy Spirit, do not harden your hearts as the children of Israel did when they were tested in the wilderness.....

(Read 3:7-11)

Prayer

(1) Responding to God's Voice
secondly

(2E) Now, concerning this Caution which comes from the Holy Spirit, I want you to see it from the standpoint of God's Revelation. The revelation of God. Vs 9..."WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED ME BY TESTING ME, AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS."

Now, I would like you to notice two things about what God said about Israel who refused to respond to his voice.

(1F) First of all, the background of this revelation. Paul says "Your Fathers tried me by testing."

and Two different words there that I want you to see. The first word "tried" means "they were tempting God". ~~They it says that they~~ *The second word* "proved or tested" me. What does that mean?... It means that you test something in order to get approval.

The only problem here is that they are doing it towards God. Have you ever read a passage and thought: "Boy, those people are really missing the boat."....But, the more you think about it the more you realize that you do the same.....

How often do we do the same thing in testing God? Let me illustrate...
When ever we demand ^{something} from God to prove to us ^{That His Word is True} ~~that his word~~, which ~~should be~~
~~taken by faith~~, we are guilty of unbelief.....When ever you demand ⁴ God to
prove to you ~~that~~ his words ^{what} should be taken by faith, you are guilty of
unbelief.....Listen, God has every right, because of who he is, to tell us
what to do. And we ought to respond.....

Whenever we say, God prove it to me and then I will respond, ^{show} ~~me~~
a sign, proves we are guilty of unbelief. Jesus said that it is a wicked
generation that ask for a sign.

Why do we ask God to prove it to us?.....Many times God tell you some
thing and you know you ought ~~to~~ walk by faith, but ~~you~~ you say, "God, ~~you~~
could you just give me 5 reasons why I should do this".....You know.....

What are we doing?.....We are evidencing...we are proving before God
that we do not trust Him and that we do not believe him at all.

Salvation is faith that saves. ^o ~~Faith~~ is believing God and his ^{Word} and
not asking for ^{proof} ~~prove~~. Like the fellow who said: "If Jesus Christ would come
back from the dead, I would believe."

No, you wouldn't....That is in the Bible. Jesus said that if they
didn't believe Moses and the prophets they willn't believe ~~even~~ even if one
comes back from the dead.

Harden not your hearts in the wilderness like when your Fathers ~~put~~ me
to the test. They tempted me. They proved me. And here is the interesting
thing. ~~thing~~

(2F) They had, secondly, all the benefits. They saw the works of God for
forty years.

Now, I want to challage some of you. How many of ~~you~~ here tonight
have ~~been~~ a christian for 40 years or longer.....(RAISE HANDS).....

O.K......you have seen God work for 40 years.....Let me ask you a
question?.....Does it now get easier to believe ~~God~~?.....No...it doesn't..

Are the temptations, are the pressures, are the testings still Great? Oh, yes, they are still great....The children of Israel saw the works of God for 40 yeears and yet, they still hardened ^{their} ~~there~~ hearts. The same problem they began the wilderness jouney with, they ended with. Same problem. They didn't learn even after 40 years.....

Could it be that some of us here tonight who have known the Lord for several years, now, and we are right now experiencing what this ^{test} ~~test~~ is saying. There is bitterness in our hearts and we are questioning what God is allowing in our lives. We are not believeing God. We are not putting faith in his word. We have lost all hope, all courage, all confidence. WHAT IS WRONG WITH US? WHY ARE WE DOING THIS? WHY DO WE HAVE A HARD TIME BELIEVING? WHAT IS THE ROOT ^{problem?} ~~WHAT IS BEHIND THIS?~~....UNBELIEF...

You see.....If you just believe God, he has promised to you more than you could ever dream possible in your life. He has promised you more happiness than anyone could possible experience. The joy that is in ~~the~~ the midst of trail. He has ^{NOT} promised you to be free from trail. But he has promised you benefits that go far beyond this life and are in eternity. God ask you to believe him no matter what he says....Just take him at his word....Because there are terrible consequences of unbelief.....

Now, let me make some application.... ^{Now - Follow This because it carries all the way through Hebrews}

~~Now~~ Cannan was not heaven....I don't care what some of our songs say. You know: "ROLL JORDAN ROLL. AND I AM GOING OVER TO CANAN LAND"....like it was heaven.....

Cannan is not heaven in the Bible. If it was heaven, then Hebrews 11 doesn't make any sense because the Bible says that Abaraham was not simplyly looking at Cannan. But he was looking for a city whose builder and ~~maker~~ maker was God. His vision was a lot bigger than that.

What does Cannan then represent? What is the whole point of Hebrews chapter 3 and 4.....Let me put it together for you by way of illustration.

and that represents sin

In Egypt they were in bondage, ~~to sin~~. That is an unsaved condition... When they came out off Egypt and had the pass over, the blood of the lamb. That represents redemption. You are now a believer... *You are saved*

When they went into the wilderness. That is Carnal living....Carnal living....Wandering about for 40 years.

Do you know how long it would have taken them to walk from Mt. Sani to the Promised land?....A direct rout would take 11 days....It took them 40 years.....Of course you know why they didn't go into the promised land, don't you?....Do you know the story?....I like there courage....Moses wanted to send 12 spies....Why didn't the whole group...3 million...go into the land?....No, we will send 12 spies.....

10 came back and said: "You must be kidding. We cann't conquer that land. The people in there are ~~the~~ giants.".....We will all be killed"..... What was their problem?....UNBELIEF.....

The two other spies, Joshua and Caleb said: "no problem....We can take the land."....[.But you see majority rules....10 against 2.....So, they believed the majority....Result: they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years That is like the christian life.... *Carnal living*

WHAT IS GOING INTO CANNAN?.....According to Hebrews 3 and 4 it is finding, at last, complete victory and rest in your christian life....VICTORY. NOT HEAVEN...BUT VICTORY.... *Victorious christian living*

And the message here in Hebrews 3:7-11 is the root as to why ~~u~~/ many believers have not arrived at the place of victory and rest in their christian lives....OH, THEY ARE SAVED...PRAISE ~~u~~ GOD THEY ARE SAVED. THEY ARE OUT OFF EGYPT. YEt, they are wandering around and not having victory... WHY?....They are frustrated and discouraged.....WHY?.....BECAUSE OF UNBELIEF.

Not believing God. Not believing and appling what he says in his Word. Trying to do it your own way. Instead of trusting God, you are struggling to do the whole thing yourself....THAT IS THE ROOT PROBLEM...

(3E)But, now let's come to the third thing that I want you to notice ~~one~~ concerning the caution from the ^{Holy} Spirit. This involves the reaction of God.

Vs 10...The reaction of God...~~Two things here~~...Vs 10 says: "Therefore I was angry with this generation, and said, 'they always go astray in their hearts; and they did not know my ways.'" Two things, ~~Here~~.

(1F) One, we have a revelation of His character, here, that is just great.

"Therefore I was angry with this generation".....HOW LONG?....40 years.....

Where do I get a revelation of God's character here, in his ways of dealing with us? By the fact that for 40 years being angry with that generation, he put up with it.

WHAT IS THAT TALKING ABOUT? It is talking about the long suffering of God. For 40 years God was angry with that generation....40 years....

Do you think He might be a little ~~bit~~ bit angry with us at times?.....
Oh, God loves you. He sure does. But this is the long suffering of God. Induring and putting up with us. Arn't you glad that God is long suffering. [?]
God is putting up with us.

Now, if you don't identify with that, then maybe your attitude is wrong towards God. You see, we are always prone to go away from God and his Word. Failing to believe him. Failing to respond. Just going our own way. ^{TRYING TO} Be Cool

Yet, God in love is long suffering with us.

(2F) And secondly, concerning God's reaction, there are two reasons given.

(1G) One, there failure to accept his word. It says in Vs 10 "they always go astray in their heart".....They are always wander and going away..... failing to respond to his word.....STRAYING FROM WHAT?....FROM WHAT HIS WORD SAYS.....Everytime I wander away from God's word, I am going to fall into a great deal of difficulty and furstration in my life.

(2G) Secondly, ~~as~~ as to why God was angrey, was their failure to acknowledge His ways. Literal it is knowledge by experience....Vs 10 "They did not know my ways."

When you are not experiencing God directing you in your life and not experiecing his ways, it is leading into all kinds of furstrations and wandering in the wilderness spiritually.....Wandering around and never getting victory and peace.....WHY?.....Because you are not accepting his Word.....

Oh, you may say: "I believe God's Word"....But you are not hearing it and obeying it....You are not accepting it anymore then they were.

And He said, also, you haven't followed my ways. You know, the one who accepts God's Word follows God's ways..... *Jesus said IF you love me You Will obey me.*

And the more you trust God's Word the more you will experience God's ways, or his working in your life.....Then you start having victory....and peace..and joy.....

(4E) Then, finally, in Vs 11, I would like you to notice the results.

And there are two of them that I want you to apply. Vs 11 "As I swore in my wrath, they shall not enter my rest."

(1F) The first result is an expression of God's righteous character.

His wrath....I swore in my wrath...

I don't think people like to hear about God's wrath. I think they would rather hear about God's love. Who wouldn't. We are all like that.

But there is a time when we must ^{teach} seek all the counsel of God. And we must teach all that the Bible says. And the Bible says that God on the bases of his wrath, his righteous character, will not let us get away with continual unbelief. THAT IS THE TEACHING OF SCRIPTURE...

If you continue to refuse to believe Christ for salvation, God is not going to let you get away from him. You are not going to be able to say at the Great White Throne Judgement? "Well, I was good and I was not bad. And I did the best I could. So let me into heaven".....

Oh, no.....enterece into heaven is based upon fiath in Jesus Christ. God will not let you get away with sin because hf his righteous character. He is a God of wrath.....

And the point is to^{us}, also, as beleivers, God will not let us get away with it. When we continue to fail to respond to his Word, when we fail to achknowledge his Word and not obey it, God says: "I will tell you what is going to happen".....Same thing that happened to Israel....You will not enter into victory and rest.....You may talk about having vicatory in your christian life. But you will never find it untill you respond to God's Word....

(2F) The second thing I see here by way of results is, also, the entrance INTO REST WAS DENIED.

The text says "They shall not enter my rest".....Now, the issue is not salvation. The issue is victory in the christian life. If we continue in ~~unbelief~~/ unbelief, with unresponsive hearts, we will never have victory in this life. We will have a restless sprit. Always wandering from one thing to another....You see, it is why people jump from one church to other..... It is why people say : "The Pastor doesn't feed me".....

But, I wander if there is a Celab ~~here~~ or a Joshua here today. Maybe you have been in a pattern of ~~of~~ bitterness towards God's Word. Maybe your realize as you look at your life that you have been like Israel wandering in the wilderness.....Ohm you are a christian, put you haven't found victory.....You are not experiencing rest in your life.....And you say I really want it....

What is the problem?.....It is a submissive heart.....You know, God maybe testing you so that you will say: "I GIVE UP"...."God you are right" What ever you want, I will do.....

You see, God want us to submit to his ~~W~~ord. For there is victory and rest.....

Let us Pray