

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

STRONGY ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER DAILY

Hebrews 3:12-13 “See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”

What has caught your fancy, attracted, and enticed you lately? Sometimes this happens subtly and at other times it comes with the force of an atomic bomb. Satan is always searching for just the right approach that will capture your mind, heart, and soul. Most often it is in exactly this order. Your eye is the entrance to your brain which is connected to your heart that in turn captures your soul. If he can get you thinking about something strongly enough that it will capture the attention of your mind, then your heart, your soul is not far behind.

Today’s devotional verse is concerned with those things that would turn your heart and soul away from “the living God.” “A sinful, unbelieving heart” mentioned in this verse does not have to look bad, feel bad, or in the eyes of the world be bad. This is the reason the writer to the Hebrews strongly encourages his Christian audience to on a daily basis encourage one another in their daily faith walk. As Hilary Clinton’s book title, “It takes a Village” encouraged the American nation to corporately be concerned about helping one another raise our children, so today’s verse is concerned with you and your fellow members encouraging one another to faithfully, daily follow Jesus.

Luther wrote, “Since we are in the midst of enemies and are continually attracted by innumerable allurements, hindered by cares, and engaged in business affairs, through all of which we are withdrawn from purity of heart, therefore there is only one thing left for us: we must exhort ourselves with all zeal and, so to speak, stir up our sluggish spirit by means of the Word of God, by meditating on it, reading it, and continually listening to it. . .” The writer to the Hebrews in chapter 10, verse 25 encourages us Christians to encourage one another to remain faithful in worship. In the current religious climate of this country this exhortation is so needed.

So, dear Christian, personally be daily in God's word and on your knees. Encourage your family, neighbors, and friends to do so likewise. "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith . . ." Remember, "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved." As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in Him will never be put to shame." (Romans 10:8-11)

Prayer: Surround me Lord with fellow Christians to encourage me and then use me to encourage others to faithfully read and study Your Word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Faith and truth and life bestowing, Open now the Scriptures, Lord,
Seed to life eternal sowing, Scattered on the wind abroad.
Let not hearts, Your Word receiving, Like a barren field be found,
Choked with thorns and unbelieving, Shallow earth or stony ground.

May the Spirit's pow'r unceasing Bring to life the hidden grain,
Daily in our hearts increasing, Bearing fruit that shall remain.
So in Scripture, song, and story, Savior, may Your voice be heard.
Till our eyes behold Your glory Give us ears to hear Your Word.
(LSB 584)