

Keeping Faith Hebrews 3:1-19

The people who first received this letter were considering quitting the faith. For them this was a matter of life and death. The reasons may be different for us, but still we may consider turning our backs on the faith, or not considering it in the first place.

Consider Jesus

The writer urges his listeners to 'consider Jesus' to think long and hard about Him. At the heart of Christianity is a call to think clearly and examine the evidence about Jesus; to consider the implications of His life, death and resurrection.

But why is that a help when someone is considering leaving the faith? Because the writer tells us that Jesus was faithful. He was faithful even in the face of suffering and death. When we realize what that says about His love for us, it will give us the desire to stay faithful to Him.

The listeners' hero, Moses, was also faithful, even when things were bad. But he was just a servant – Jesus is the Son. So Jesus is not just greater than angels (as we saw in chapter 1), he is also greater than Moses. Part of Moses' role, the writer says, was to testify to what was coming; and Jesus is the fulfillment of that.

Daily Live the Truth

In v6 and v14 the writer says that the way we know whether or not we are members of God's house, or sharers in Christ, is if we hold firm to our faith to the end. Perseverance in the face of the good and the bad of life demonstrates that faith is real. But our faithfulness doesn't depend on us, but on Christ. We are simply to live out daily the truth of what Jesus has done for us. Then we can face the future, because we face it not in our strength, but in His.

Guard the Heart

The ancient Israelites failed to enter the Promised Land. The writer wants us to learn from their mistake. They failed to enter into all God had for them because their hearts were hardened to God's voice. Our hearts can be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin, the writer says, - by believing the empty promises of sin, rather than what God says.

One way to avoid this happening is to (v13) 'exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today."' We are to watch out for each other – encourage, comfort, warn, support one another. Which is why being part of the community of the church isn't just fun, it's life-saving.