Hebrews 3:12-19

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

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***Hebrews 3:12–19*** (ESV)  
**12** Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. **13** But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. **14** For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. **15** As it is said, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.” **16** For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? **17** And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? **18** And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? **19** So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

1. Summarize the main points of Hebrews 3:1-11.
2. In Heb 3:12, what are we to “take care” to avoid? How did that look to the people of Israel in the days of Moses? How does that look for you in your life? What is the result? Recall also the prior warning of Heb 2:1.
3. Heb 3:12 uses the Greek ἀφίστημι (**aphistémi**) from which we get the English word “apostatize”. Look at a few other places where this word is used, for example Luke 8:13 and 1 Tim 4:1. What is the basic definition of this word? In the Septuagint, this word is most often associated with Hebrew סוּר (**sur**). What is the basic definition of this word? How does it contrast with the Hebrew שׁוב (**shuv**)? What is the Hebrew word for repentance? What are the theological implications of all this for us?
4. In Heb 3:13, what advice is given on how to avoid this pitfall? How do we do that today? Are we receptive to others having that kind of input in our lives?
5. Why do you think there is the emphasis on the word “today” in Heb 3:13? What did it mean in Ps 97? What is the purpose of repeating it several times in Hebrews 3 (3:7, 3:13, 3:15)?
6. In Heb 3:13, what is the source of our hearts being hardened? How is that characterized? What is **your experience** of this?
7. Heb 3:14 uses the phrase “**share** in Messiah”. Look up the Greek word and find out what it means. How have we come to “**share** in Messiah”? What is the corresponding Hebrew word?
8. Looking further at Heb 3:14, is there any condition placed upon our “sharing in Messiah”? How does this related to the “once saved, always saved” belief that some of us were raised to believe?
9. What is the word “confidence” in the Greek? What does it mean? Look at these other places where the same Greek word is used: 2 Cor 9:4, 2 Cor 11:7, Heb 1:3, and Heb 11:1.
10. What is the main argument of Heb 3:16-19? What happened to our spiritual ancestors who heard the word of God through Moses? Why?
11. Consider Heb 3:18-19. What is the grumbling and complaining of the people in Moses’ day really equated to? How should that make us reconsider our attitudes?