



Hebrew 3:12-13

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12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

NKJV

The word beware is only used by God in His Word when God wanted to issue a strong warning about something that is very dangerous.

- Jesus used the word beware to warn His disciples about false prophets.
- Jesus used the word beware to warn His disciples about the nature of men.
- Jesus used the word beware to warn His disciples about the false doctrine and hypocrisy of the Pharisees, Sadducees, and the Scribes.
- Jesus used the word beware to warn His disciples about the sin of covetousness.
- The apostles used the word beware to warn the Jews about rejecting the gospel and experiencing the judgments of the prophets.
- The apostles used the word beware to warn the church about being a stumbling block to the weak.
- The apostles used the word beware to warn the church about division in the church.
- The apostles used the word beware to warn the church about the concision whom they called dogs and evil workers.
- The apostles used the word beware to warn the church about the false philosophies of the world.
- The apostles used the word beware to warn the church about evil men that persecute the church.
- The apostles used the word beware to warn the church about falling away.

- The apostles used the word beware to warn the church about unbelief.

When the word beware is used by God in His Word, never take it lightly. For what God is warning us to avoid is extremely dangerous. If we do not heed His warning, we will experience a great tragedy!

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The warning is to brethren. This warning is not to those who are lost. It is a warning to church members who have professed faith in Christ.

The warning is to avoid an evil heart of unbelief.

The word evil means hurtful; degenerate; ill; diseased; derelict; lewd; wicked; malicious; and grievous. The word is used to describe Satan, demons, evil servants, evil men. Here the word evil is used to describe a heart of unbelief.

Unbelief must be very dangerous to ourselves and others.

Unbelief is a lack of Christian faith that causes unfaithfulness or disobedience to God. It causes us to depart from the living God.

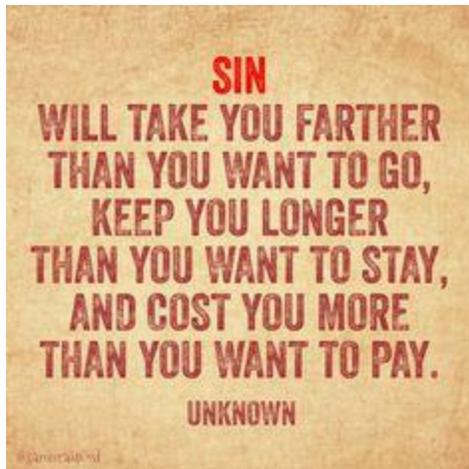
The word depart means to instigate a revolt; to desert; to withdraw; to fall away.

Unbelief creates within us a hardened heart.

A hardened heart is used to describe many people in the scripture including the Egyptians and Pharaoh; various kings of the Jews; Nebuchadnezzar; the Pharisees and Jews.

Having a hardened heart means we stop seeing, stop understanding, stop hearing, and stop caring.

A hardened heart causes us to listen to the deceitfulness of sin. Sin is deceitful. Deceitful means delusion. Sin makes promises that it cannot deliver. Sin is like a scammer.



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To avoid unbelief, we need daily exhortation.

Exhortation comes from the word parakaleo. It means to draw near and encourage.

Parakaleo comes from the Word Paraclete. Paraclete is a name for the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit wants to draw near to us and encourages us with when we are tempted by unbelief.

The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to encourage us.

Rom. 10:17

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

NKJV

The bible is the Word of God.

2 Tim. 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

NKJV

We can receive daily encouragement by personally reading, studying, and meditating on the Word of God.

We have the Word of God available to us in a way that the recipients of the book of Hebrews did not have in their possession. We have the Old and New Testaments. We have the Word of God.

We can follow these admonitions from God's Word.

Joshua 1:8

8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

NKJV

Psalms 1:1-2

Blessed is the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
And in His law he meditates day and night.

NKJV

Psalms 119:11

11 Your word I have hidden in my heart,
That I might not sin against You.

NKJV

1 Timothy 4:14-16

14 Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. 15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. 16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

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But notice that this verse says that we should encourage one another daily.

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Discipleship in rows once or twice a week is not daily. We need to be in relationship with some reliable one another's who will encourage our faith in God's Word.

We have small groups to help us develop those relationships.

Do you have an evil heart of unbelief?

We can have an evil heart of unbelief and be very active in church. We can put on a front that we are strong. We can fake it.

If you have an evil heart of unbelief, stop faking it.

Be transparent with God and with those who can encourage you with the Word of God.