

## WHY PEOPLE GO AWAY FROM GOD

### Hebrews 3:7-19

**Introduction:** They are important moments when God speaks to people. Abraham heard God and acted. Noah heard God and acted. Isaiah heard God and acted. Saul (Paul) heard God and acted. God's call can transform, enrich and give reason to live but belief and obedience are essential.

#### I. GOD CALLS AT HIS APPOINTED TIME

1. TODAY is God's time! Moses was 80, Abraham was 99, Noah was 600 when God called.
  - God's call is always urgent.
2. God's call to salvation is at God's time and sends the Holy Spirit to draw one to Him.
  - The Christian's call to obedience and service comes at God's time, the right time.

#### II. GOD CALLS FOR A DUTY TO BE PERFORMED

1. Verse 7 - "If" is a 3rd class condition word, "if," maybe, maybe not, but IF He does, then...
  - "If God will speak, if God will call..."
2. People have the false idea that they can be saved whenever they choose.
  - "The Holy Spirit will not always "strive" with man."
  - "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found."
  - It is true that people can come at any time but God may not be there.
    - A man once told a pastor that he had waited too long to be saved, he had put God off too often and now during invitations, he feels nothing, even though he is "ready" to be saved."
3. People have the equally false idea of serving God when they want to.
  - Opportunities to witness may pass, they may happen only once.
  - Some men have been called to preach but refused then changed their minds, but the call was no longer there.
4. God initiates all fellowship with Him. It is God who makes the call. It is God who offers salvation. It is God who offers new life. It is God's call to us. It is up to us to answer at that very moment.

#### III. A DANGER EXISTS

1. Paul wrote the book of Hebrews because he sensed that people were in danger.
2. V8, "harden" is dried, cracked, calloused, to brace against.
  - Hearts can become hardened against God by saying "no, no," not right now...too often.

3. God did miracles for Israel when they were in captivity in Egypt, delivered them out of bondage, gave them everything they needed to survive in the wilderness.
  - Yet unbelief prevailed when the spies reported that they couldn't take the promised land.
  - After years of seeing God work for them, they said "no" to God's plans for them.
4. People have not changed through the centuries and are the same today. "God, do just this one more thing, then I'll believe..."
5. Sin deceives us, lies to us, causes us to wait, put off, even say "no" to God.
6. God's Church is filled with "hot and cold" Christians. Lukewarm, no consistency, hearts that are unsure, unstable in obedience to what the Lord wants them to do.

#### **IV. A DISBELIEF PREVAILS**

1. Unbelief, a casual ignoring of God's call.
  - Disbelief, an open refusal to believe what God says.
2. Israel wandered for 40 years because of disbelief. Their wandering was not God's fault for His plans for Israel to take the Promised Land was but a short time.
3. A hard heart is a rebellious heart. It is a heart that refuses to believe God.
4. The reason Christians fall away into inactivity, uselessness for God is a bad heart, a lack of belief, using excuse after excuse.
  - The condition of one's heart is his/her own making!

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. The choice is ours. God calls, how shall we answer?
2. *"...Who is the Lord that I should obey Him?"*
3. *"...Speak Lord, thy servant heareth!"*