

S.O.H.L. (3/15/10)

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

The Hardening of the Heart

HEBREWS 3:12-19 NASB – (12) Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. (13) But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (14) For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end, (15) while it is said, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME." (16) For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? (17) And with whom was He angry 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 not able to enter because of unbelief.

Lack of trust in God always prevents us from receiving the best. For example, the Israelites failed to enter the Promised Land because they did not believe in God's protection. What could have been a trip that would have been complete in a matter of days, lasted for forty years! This was an unhappy alternative to the wonderful gift He had planned for them.

Each day I thank God soooooo much for His mercy and patience! He waits for us to come out of that "hardened heart uniform" we are wearing. What causes the hardened heart? God says it in the above scripture (unbelief) Many of us live our lives until we are in our late thirties, forties or maybe even our fifties before we realize that we are walking in disbelief! The sad reality is we lose out on a lot because it could have been a short journey to the promises of God. The good thing is our heart softens before we die and that's only if the scenario happens that way.

My brothers and sisters in the faith, when Christ is talking to us, we need to listen and obey. He knows our fears, doubt and challenges. He will not let us down. Only we can do that to ourselves. So when He instructs us to do_____. We should follow through and don't let our heart get the best of our thoughts! Don't block Christ from meditating on your mind. "Harden not your hearts".

SCRIPTURE READING

1 JOHN 3:19-20

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The world needs warm hearted Christians.

