

DAY 10 SATURDAY

HEBREWS 3:7-11 HANG IN THERE!

⁷ So, as the Holy Spirit says:

“Today, if you hear his voice,

⁸ do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion,

during the time of testing in the desert,

⁹ where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did.

¹⁰ That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, ‘Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.’

¹¹ So I declared on oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’ ”

In 2 Timothy 3:16, St. Paul declares that *All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness*. One part of the Bible does not hold more authority than the other, no matter whether it was written before or after the Incarnation. Here the author uses Psalm 95:7-11, the sorry story of the Hebrews in the wilderness, to warn us about the danger of not persisting in our faith.

In spite of the mountain top experience of God delivering them from the Egyptians and bringing them through the Red Sea, the Hebrews doubted God, rebelled against God and repeatedly gave up on God. As a result, God gave them what they were asking for with their decisions – exclusion from his rest. In *The Great Divorce*, C. S. Lewis wrote, *There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, “Thy will be done,” and those to whom God says, in the end, “Thy will be done.”*

We are not saved by an exceptional emotional experience or verbal proclamation of Jesus as our Lord and Savior. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, St. Paul says, *If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!* In John 14:23, Jesus says, *If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.* The ideas of loving fidelity and new creation bespeak a permanency that is to be characteristic of a saving faith. As in the wilderness, so too in our lives today, the true nature of our faith is seen in our persistence in season and out. As D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones said: *The Christian is a man who can be certain about the ultimate even when he is most uncertain about the immediate.*

Let me not, O Lord, turn back in the time of trial, but hang firmly on to your promises in the midst of the wildernesses for this life. Lord, I want to know your rest and dwell with you for ever. Amen.

