

# Hebrews

3:12-19

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Their lack of trust in God was revealed through temptation, tribulation, trials, and time.

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Numbers 14:28-30

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1 Corinthians 5:1-13

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What was the mistake of the person in question?

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What was the mistake of the rest of the church?

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Christianity is personal, but it is also corporate.

Many Christians suffer in isolation, due to a lack of exhortation from other Christians.

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Where do you receive exhortation?

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There is no one in the church that is exempt from the command to exhort one another.

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The command to encourage one another is given to you.

Are you being obedient in this area of your Christian life?

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Imagine a church where the members took this command seriously.

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What can you do to increase the spiritual health of your church, and to keep people from being lured away by the deceitfulness of sin?

Encourage them on a regular basis.

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If you encouraged a fellow Christian yesterday, that is wonderful, but what about today?

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Encouraging someone has a twofold effect; the encourager gives courage to the one who needs it, and in the process the encourager receives courage by being reminded of the need to press on, fight sin, and to live in obedience to God.

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Hebrews 10:23-25

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There is a synergy that happens when Christians are around Christians. They live better, sin less, love better, stay focused, suffer less distractions, and work more for the glory of God.

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If you have privatized your Christianity, you should not be surprised to find yourself in a constant state of discouragement.

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2 Corinthians 11:3

But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

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1 Corinthians 6:9-11

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If your behavior is descriptive of those not entering into the kingdom of heaven, you are being deceived.

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Perseverance does not earn salvation,  
but it does reveal salvation.

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Hebrews 3:6

And we are his house, if indeed we hold  
fast our confidence and our boasting in  
our hope.

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Why does the author repeat this passage?

To emphasize the extreme urgency of the  
warning. This warning is for right now!

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Hebrews 2:1-2

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What about you, are you with the people of  
God, but not a person of God?

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1. Many professing Christians live in isolation. Perhaps they even attend church, but still refrain from getting to know other Christians personally. What are some negative consequences that could possibly come from this, especially in light of today's scripture passages?
2. In an effort to exhort others more frequently and to receive exhortation more frequently, Christians must strive to get to know other Christians. How can this be done? Brainstorm, and list at least seven ways that this could be done.
3. Hebrews 3:13, Hebrews 10:23-25, and Colossians 3:16 are all verses that command believers to be encouraging other Christians. Do you think that this command is often neglected by Christians, and if so, why?
4. It has been said that, "In order to be a better encourager of fellow Christians you might must open your eyes, ears, heart, mouth, and schedule." What is your greatest obstacle to encouraging other Christians, and how might you overcome it? Several people please share, and remember that this is a common struggle that we all need to improve upon.
5. Deceitfulness is often connected to obvious sins such as in in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, but some deceitfulness can be even more subtle, such as those mentioned in Mark 4:18-19. How do we fight against these more subtle areas of distraction and deception in our lives?
6. As you reflect on your life thus far, how have you benefited from being in regular contact with fellow Christians. Be specific.