

# Hebrews

## Chapter Four

**FAITH COMES BY HEARING:** Read Chapter Four

### **SUMMARY: Verses 1-16**

1. God wants to bring your life into His rest. God isn't trying to make you miserable to grow you. He is desiring to have you obedient so He can bring rest to you.
2. It matters not how religious you act or appear it is faith that matters. If the message of God's love isn't coupled with faith then it has no effect on your life.
3. Paul gives example of the children of Israel moving from the wilderness into the promise land. They wandered for 40 years never experiencing God's rest because of their disobedience.
4. Rest comes via obedience of faith. The nature of God is to bring you into rest. Even God rested. But a continual hardening of the heart will never bring you into the life God has for you.
5. Obedience to God proves the condition of the heart - responsive or hardened.
6. Patterns of disobedience create a hard heart and robs you of God's best.
7. It's God's Word that reveals the condition of the heart. His Word is a 2 edged sword. It cuts two ways. First, it cuts for obedience and softens you. But if the Word is rejected it cuts for disobedience and hardens you. This is how God hardened Pharaoh's heart. He simply sent His Word. He sent the same Word to Moses. Yet, Moses was softened through obedience while Pharaoh was hardened through disobedience. (Read Exodus 1 - 15)
8. God exposes you through His Word. Once the Word comes there's no hiding. You either obey or disobey. In that alone, the Word reveals the hidden part of the heart.
9. Although Joshua was able to get the Israelites to the promise land he could not bring them true rest. They stayed in a constant pattern of obedience and disobedience. (The book of Judges reveals this pattern of their heart). Joshua could get them into the promise land but he couldn't change the intent and condition of their rebellious heart.
10. No matter how hard we try we can never change the condition of someone's heart. We may think rules, trouble, punishment, and the like will change a person's heart. It will never work. We can make all the laws in the world but they still will not solve the condition of a rebellious and sinful heart.
11. Paul states that it is JESUS who alone can remedy the condition of the sinful and rebellious heart. Outside of Jesus there is not hope for the condition of a hardened rebellious heart. Yet, Jesus came to show us the way. He came to show us how to live this life for God's will and purpose. He came to make a way for us to approach a throne of grace.

### **REFLECTION**

1. What verse stuck out most to you?
2. Why do you think REST is so important to God. Define God's rest.
3. Why does God consider FAITH the only way into His rest?
4. How can patterns of disobedience rob you of God's best?
5. Define this phrase: God's Word reveal the condition of the heart.
6. Why do we try so hard to change the heart via good works? Why can a heart be changed only through Jesus?
7. Why do you think Paul calls it a THRONE OF GRACE? Isn't this contrary to what many think about God?

### **APPLICATION**

1. Are there any patterns of disobedience you need to deal with today?
2. Consistently read, study, and obey God's Word in order for your heart to stay softened.
3. Think of areas in your life where you are RESPONSIVE. Areas where you are HARDENED. How do they play out in your faith walk?

