



Reading the Word

Key Text: Hebrews 3:6-19

Understanding the Word

Unbelief is like a locked gate barring your path.

1. Take Personal Responsibility - Hebrews 3:12 *See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.*

See to it... – Needs application. Make sure it is done

...a sinful, unbelieving heart – unbelief is sin, it's that serious.

See Hebrews 11:6, Romans 14:23

Matthew 13:13-15. Note v.15, calloused hearts because of unbelief

Important not to surrender to unbelief. Hebrews 3:8 *...do not harden your hearts...* and 3:10 *...their hearts are always going astray...*

Mark 9:21-24 Note the father, using the vocabulary of the defeated (v.22b), says *"...if you can do anything..."* and Jesus' response (v.23) *"If you can? Everything is possible for him who believes."*

2. Encourage & Be Encouraged - Hebrews 3:13 *But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.*

Note the words: *daily* – frequent, *Today* – don't stop.

You are more likely to *be hardened by sin's deceitfulness* if you become isolated. We need each other.

Hebrews 10:23-25

1 Samuel 23:16-17 Note in particular Jonathan's 3 faith statements in v.17. A good pattern for encouraging someone.

3. Hold On Tight - Hebrews 3:14 *We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.*

...hold firmly... – requires effort, application

...till the end... – keep going, perseverance

Romans 4:18-22

Stay strong in your faith (in what you believe). v.19, 20, 1 Samuel 30:6

Realise that God's promises are *more real* than 'the facts'. Compare v.19 with v.20 & 21

If you are *fully persuaded* (v.21) you will not *waver through unbelief* (v.20)

Doing the Word

To Discuss: (as a group)

1. 'Seeing is believing'. True or false? Discuss.
2. What can be done to help those who are struggling with unbelief in some area of their Christian life?

To Do: (as an individual)

1. Look again at the scriptures listed. Think about them and take whatever steps are necessary.
2. Read Psalm 27. Notice the way David opens (v.1-6) and closes (v.13-14) this prayer. He has some very real and challenging issues to talk to God about (v.7-12) but he allows no room for unbelief in anything he says.
3. Be an encourager.