

Restoring the desire for Faithfulness
Heb 3:12-14
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the importance of restoring the desire to be faithful to God.

Introduction

I. The problems that result in unfaithfulness

A. Worry & Priorities

1. It is a disservice to God to allow the physical to be more important than the spiritual, this is at least part of the problem with Martha (**Lk 10:38-42**)
 - i. Martha was worried about “many things”, these were physical tasks but they too must not become *overly* important.
 - a. *Don't hurt your Christian influence over small things*
 - i. *Potluck meals are not THAT important*
 - ii. *An overlooked announcement is not the end of the world*
 - ii. They were worrisome to Martha and caused her to give up time for spiritual things.
 2. What part was “the good part”?
 - i. It must be a reference to putting spiritual matters first.

B. Lying to yourself & God (making excuses)

1. A person can convince themselves of many things, sadly some are convinced they are faithful while the Bible would say otherwise (**Isa 5:21**)

C. Apathy

1. The “I don't care one way or another” attitude is a sure road to destruction.
2. We are reminded how God feels about apathy from the words of Christ (**Rev 3:15-16**).

II. The Loses of Unfaithfulness

A. Loss of blessings

1. Loss of Hope – unfaithfulness results in no hope provided from God.
 - i. True hope comes from God, not from the world (**Ps 146:5**)
2. Loss of Heaven – no unfaithful person goes to heaven (**Rev 21:7-8**).
 - i. Despite what some say or may believe there is no such thing as an unfaithful person in Heaven.
 - ii. There is also no such thing as a faithful person willfully at home on the couch either.

B. Loss of fellowship

(Fellowship – joint participation, partnership, sharing)

1. Loss of fellowship with God – God does not fellowship those who do not fellowship Him.
 - a. It's like having a friend you hide from, are they really your friend?
2. Loss of fellowship with brethren – fellowship changes when you are unfaithful, kindness doesn't but interactions do.

III. Lessons for us today.

- A. Unfaithfulness only brings losses
 - 1. Unfaithfulness brings spiritual death.
 - 2. Unfaithfulness brings false contentment.
 - i. If you are content with your unfaithfulness, you are content without God, this should not bring contentment.
 - a. Don't confuse physical or material gains with happiness.
- B. Faithfulness brings gains (**Psalm 106:1-5**; see the blessings of faithfulness)
 - 1. Faithfulness brings spiritual life.
 - 2. Faithfulness brings love, mercy, grace, care, and blessings from God.
 - 3. Faithfulness brings fellowship with those who love the Lord.

Application & Conclusion:

- 1. What will it take for you to be faithful and to God?
- 2. Consider the words of Psalm 106 (**Ps 106:13-15**).
 - i. Remember when you chose to be unfaithful, you get what you ask for.
- 3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9