

The Evidence You Are Who You Say You Are
Hebrews 3:14-19

In Hebrews 3:6 we have already seen that we are God's house "*if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope to the end.*" It does not say you *become* God's house by holding fast. You *are* God's house when ... Let me see if I can help you understand the difference. How do you know you are a Southerner? Having an accent doesn't *make* you a Southerner; it shows that you *are* one. Likewise, in our text we have some pretty clear evidence of real Christianity in us.

I. You have become a partaker of Christ if you hold to your assurance to the end.

Notice the language. You hold to your assurance. What assurance? Or, what is assurance? Assurance is something *said to you* or *done for you* to inspire confidence. Christ gives you this. It's absolute audacity to believe that the God of the universe loves you enough to die for you. Listen to Jesus Christ's *assurance* to you: "*Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends*" (John 15:13). Do you hold fast to this assurance from Christ?

D. M. Lloyd-Jones speaks of many who have experienced this assurance from God. John Flavel had "*ravishing tastes of heavenly joys*" as he was out walking. Edwards had a "*view of the glory of the Son of God*" as he was riding his horse in the woods. Moody was filled with the Spirit "*one day in the city of New York.*" Christmas Evans had the "*experience*" as he was "*traveling over a mountain-pass.*" All these illustrate the assurance of faith in Christ.

II. You have become a partaker of Christ if you harden not your heart to Christ's voice.

Verses 15-19 are a repetition of verses 7-11, which are a repetition of Psalm 95:7-11. I remind you that repetition in Scripture is used for emphasis. "*Verily, verily I say to you,*" Jesus said. "*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts,*" said the angels around the throne (Isaiah 6:3). Where we use voice inflection, or exclamation points, or bold print, the Hebrews repeated words. Why is it so important to repeat three times that your heart is not hardened to God? THE evidence that you are a partaker in Christ is your reflection, not your perfection. In other words, the person who considers important what Christ says is truly a child of God.

III. You have become a partaker of Christ if you enter into His rest and love others.

The Hebrews said: "Is the Lord among us, or not?" They accused God of mismanagement. God instructed Moses to "strike the rock" and the water flowed ("the rock of our salvation"). The place where the Hebrews accused God of cruelty was named by God *Massah* (to tempt) and *Meribah* (quarreling). Rather than having a settled peace that God worked all things for their good, the Hebrews quarreled among themselves. Fighting and anger come from not getting your way, and seeking to control other people. The opposite of this is love for others. "*By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another*" (John 13:35).

This is what could be called the great trilogy of genuine Christianity: *faith, hope and love*. Faith in Christ's word, hope in His assurance, and love for Him and His people. These three things abide, but the greatest of these is love (I Corinthians 13:13). Why is love the greatest? Probably because there are times when we struggle with doubt and hardness, but when we simply say to Christ: "Lord, I don't always feel confident, but I will always choose to love."