**Reboot 2021**

**Reboot Community**

**Hebrew 3:12-14**

**February 7, 2021**

David Taylor

The elders have discussed how our church and those who call CCC home can flourish in 2021. One way to help is this series to start the year. Each sermon is like a tool in your tool belt as you seek to reboot and refocus your spiritual life this year for spiritual growth. If you want to flourish spiritually you must be intentional about it because none of us drift towards spiritual growth or becoming like Christ. Today we are looking at Reboot Community from Hebrews 3:12-14, looking at fighting unbelief together. So, if you have your bibles, turn to Hebrews 3:12-14. My big idea today is fighting unbelief is a community Project.

Let me give you backdrop to these verses. The book of Hebrews is a sermon written to a group of Jewish Christians suffering for their faith and as a result, they are being tempted to abandon following Jesus and return to their old life. The letter was written as a sermon to encourage them to battle unbelief and fight to remain faithful to Jesus just like all of us need to daily. In 3:12-14 the writer describes two ways to battle/fight unbelief. First, he warns us of the need to fight unbelief because it is so dangerous to us, left unchecked leads to apostacy (12). Second, he tells us to fight unbelief together, so our hearts are not hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (13). Then finally, fighting unbelief is the means by which we persevere to the end.

**We Must Fight Unbelief (12)**

He starts by warning Christians to be vigilant, to guard against an evil, unbelieving heart. An evil, unbelieving heart refuses to trust God, to believe God and his promises. Hebrews looks back at Israel in the Exodus as an example of those who God saved from slavery, demonstrated himself as reliable and faithful and powerful yet Israel repeatedly refused to believe/trust him. So, we must fight against unbelief in our hearts or stated positively we must fight to believe, to trust God (1 Tim 6:12). It is a good fight because if you are happy and satisfied with all that Jesus is for you then unbelief and sin lose its appeal. We see the seriousness of an evil unbelieving heart in that it leads to falling away from God, apostacy. We get a clue to what falling away is when the writer contrasts it to holding on to our confidence to the end (14). Apostacy is abandoning your hope in Jesus Christ for eternal life and happiness. Apostacy rarely happens overnight but almost always over the course of time as we drift away.

Verse thirteen tells us that unbelief comes from our hearts being hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. We know he is talking about the hardening of the heart because he quotes Psalm 95:8 twice which warns against hardening our hearts (3:7; 3:15). Sin deceives us by convincing us to believe something that is not true. Sin deceives by convincing us to think and to feel certain ways that are contrary to truth. Eve was deceived and so sinned (1 Tim 2:14). He is talking about indwelling sin in our hearts, an enemy who must be fought against (1 Pet 2:11; Gal 5:17; Rom 7:15-22). The power of sin is its deceitfulness to harden our hearts against God and left unchecked, leads to an evil unbelieving heart and apostacy. But unbelief cannot be fought alone, we must fight unbelief together

**We Must Fight Unbelief Together (13)**

 We cannot fight unbelief alone. First, we fight unbelief together by encouraging each other[[1]](#footnote-1) with the truth which the Spirit uses it to soften hard hearts and bring light to the darkness of deception. Secondly, we fight unbelief together by encouraging each other to trust God. The writer sees the church as a relational community. It is far more than mere acquaintance but knowing each other and trusting each other to speak into each other’s lives. He sees the church as an honest community. We feel safe to share our struggles, warts and all, because we accept each other as Christ has accepted us. And we can address sin in each other’s lives because we love the truth and want the truth no matter how painful it is. He also sees the church as an *accountable* community, addressing unbelief in each others lives, daily if necessary.

**We Must Fight to Trust Jesus (14)**

Let’s close by looking at v14, which tells us why we must fight unbelief both individually and together. Let me reverse the two clauses of the sentence to help us see what he is saying. If we hold our original confession firm to the end (future) then we have come to share in Christ (past). As I said previously, this is the opposite of falling away. Holding fast to Christ to the end, perseverance in faithfully follow Christ demonstrates that we had previously become sharers in Christ. He is saying that persevering faith is evidence of saving faith. The evidence of saving faith is that we heed the warning to fight unbelief in our hearts and heed his command to fight unbelief together.

Life Group Questions:

1. What is the big idea of Hebrews 3:12-14?
2. David described Hebrews as a sermon. Why do you think was written as a sermon?
3. Why does Hebrews warn us against an evil unbelieving heart (12)?
4. What do you think is an evil unbelieving heart?
5. How is heart hardened by deceitfulness of sin (13)?
6. How does an evil unbelieving heart lead us to fall away?
7. What does it mean to encourage one another?
8. Why are we to encourage each other daily?
9. What does this tell us about Christian community?
10. How do you interpret v14?
11. What does this teach us about following Jesus?
1. Encouragement is a theme in Hebrews. The verb is used here; 10:25; 13:19, 22. The noun is used in 6:18; 12:5; and 13:22. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)