



Open it

1. What's something in your life that you started but never finished?

Daily Devotions

Day 1

Today's Theme: Explore It

Read Hebrews 3:7-19

2. Why did God say that the Israelites will not enter His rest (the land of Canaan)?
3. What causes someone to fall away from the living God?
4. What are the brothers encouraged to do every day (v. 13)? For what reason?
5. How do we know that we have come to share in Christ?
6. How many times do you see the word "today" in this passage? Why is this significant?

Day 2

Today's Theme: Are You Listening?

Read Hebrews 3:7–11

A Native American and his friend were walking in Times Square in New York City when the streets were busy, noisy, and filled with people. The sounds of the city were almost deafening. Suddenly, the Native American said, "I hear a cricket." His friend said, "What? You must be crazy. You couldn't possibly hear a cricket in all of this noise!" "No, I'm sure of it," the Native American said, "I heard a cricket." "That's just crazy," said the friend.

The Native American listened carefully for a moment, and then walked across the street to a big cement planter where some shrubs were growing. He looked into the bushes, beneath the branches, and sure enough, he located a small cricket. In utter amazement, the friend said, "That's incredible! You must have superhuman ears." "No," said the Native American. "My ears are no different from yours. It just depends on what you're listening for." The friend replied, "There is just no way. I could never hear a cricket in this noise." But the Native American simply replied, "It depends on what is really important to you. Here, let me show you."

He reached into his pocket, pulled out a few coins, and discreetly dropped them on the sidewalk. Even with all the noise of the crowded street blaring in their ears, nearly every person within twenty feet noticed the sound of the coins and turned to look and see if the money that hit the pavement was theirs. "See what I mean?" said the Native American. "It all just depends on what's important to you." (Source Unknown)

In Hebrews 3:7 and 15, it says, "Today if you hear his voice." God is always speaking to us and trying to get our attention. In John 10:3–4, referring to himself, Jesus says that the shepherd knows his sheep by name and leads them and they are familiar with his voice. How familiar are you with the voice of Jesus in your life?

7. Besides God, what voices grab your attention and influence your life? What are these "voices" telling you?

8. In his book, *Experiencing God*, Henry Blackaby says, "God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes and His ways." Explain what this statement means, and how you have seen this to be true in your life?

Day 3

Today's Theme: Perseverance

Read Hebrews 3:12–15

The Christian walk with Jesus is not a sprint, but a marathon. In a track meet, a sprint is either 100 meters, 200 meters, or 400 meters long. One full lap around a high school track is 400 meters (¼ mile). A marathon is 26.2 miles which is 105.5 laps around a high school track. That's a lot of laps! Anybody can sprint a short distance, even if you aren't particularly fast, but not everyone is able to run a marathon. It takes disciplined training to be able to run a marathon.

Hebrews 3:14 says, *"For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end."* Those who have truly repented of their sins and placed their trust in Jesus will continue to trust in Jesus forever, holding their original confidence firm to the end. Romans 8:38–39 says that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. We can have confidence that nothing can take away our salvation in Jesus. What about someone who professes faith in Jesus, and then later in life, walks away from Jesus? Only God really knows their heart and if they truly have saving faith! There are some verses that you should consider when pondering the state of the person who has walked away from Jesus:

1 John 2:19 says, *"They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us."*

Matthew 7:21–23 says that not everyone who says "Lord, Lord" will enter the kingdom of heaven.

2 Corinthians 13:5 says that you should examine yourself to see whether you are in the faith!

9. What does it mean to persevere as a follower of Jesus?

10. How do you know that you are truly saved?

Day 4

Today's Theme: You Can Count on God!

Read Hebrews 3:16–19

“You can bank on it!” That is an expression people use today to mean that you can have confidence in or trust something. You can bank on God to make good on His promises!

The Israelites in Moses' day heard God's promise that they would enter Canaan, but they failed to believe God's promise. If you have repented of your sin and placed your full trust in Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and resurrection from the dead to forgive you of your sin, then you can count on God's promise that you have eternal life that starts now and lasts forever. 1 John 5:13 says, *“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.”* Eternal life, which starts the moment you believe, is not just a quantity of time that lasts forever, but also a quality of our relationship with God. Jesus said in John 17:3 *“And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”* How do we experience that “eternal life” of “knowing God” today? We experience that relationship with God by believing His promises and then watching Him keep His promises in our lives.

Some of the promises God has given us today:

- God's provision — Matthew 6:25–33
- God's protection — Psalm 23
- God presence — Matthew 28:20
- God's power — Ephesians 1:18–20
- God's peace — Philippians 4:6–7
- God's purpose — Romans 8:28

11. How has God shown Himself faithful to you in your life?

12. Above are just six promises God has given us today. Pick one of those promises and read the corresponding verses. Why did you choose that promise and why is that important for your life today?