

Decision Points in the Life of Grace

Hebrews 3:4-19

Hebrews 3:4-19 ⁴ For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. ⁵ Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future. ⁶ But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast. ⁷ ¶ So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸ do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, ⁹ where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did. ¹⁰ That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, 'Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.' ¹¹ So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'" ¹² See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 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. ¹⁴ We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. ¹⁵ As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion." ¹⁶ Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? ¹⁷ And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert? ¹⁸ And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? ¹⁹ So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.

(Many yes no decisions in our lives)

In America, people feel they don't need God, but in third world countries, where people are in poverty or are oppressed, or are dying by sickness, are seeking God, and there are great revivals, healing, and other acts of God. (and is America losing world power? After being a country of arrogance for so long?)

God wants to partner with us (this is the OT principle) – the Jewish people show this by wearing their kippah's (yarmulke), they believe God is walking besides them and always over them. They don't believe in a God far away, but one that's always nearby.

God's not very direct – He kinds of nudges into our lives and asks us yes or no questions. Though we can say "we can't hear God", I think many times we can. It sometimes comes as like an inner voice, or sometimes as a matter of events in our lives. To us, these events can feel devastating, but God, though He shares our pains, knows that if we come to Him, He is able to simply restore everything back and make it even better. **He's concerned about our hearts**, and is concerned **about our eternity** – so God may speak to us through even pains and frustrations in our lives.

(This is why I always talk about coming up with one or many of your pains and fears, and bringing it to God – because He's looking for the heart that seeks Him – then He will respond to you, and you can meet and experience that He is.)

(try drawing Sang's Logic Diagram©)

- Agnostic – God Reveals Himself – Desert – Our potential realized (God's anointing pours on us)
- This is God's grace . . . Decision Points in God's grace – He's all over our lives, and we just need to say yes, even if our logics say no. And even for the "strongest" (misnomer) or most "experienced" Christian, God may use someone new to do something more amazing and awesome. God loves us, and has a plan for each of us . . . but first, we must seek Him.

We're all seekers (I'm no different than you, nor is the greatest Christian different than me), I want to receive God's anointing as well – and He meets people from where they are if we go to Him.

- Dr. Walborn's explanation of how he was prayed for to receive the anointing, or empowerment of the Holy Spirit. (He had to break in tears, after three times of rejection – and he felt as if his head was removed and was filled to overflow)

- This reminded me of my first experience of meeting God. it is a preview of what God plans to do – and I know He is able to do even more (I sometimes feel like though I've been growing, I've been dragging with my knowledge, logic, and capabilities . . . but you see, God can do so much more!)

4 For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.

We may start our careers, but it's God who will grow it, develop it, and make us prosper

We may start a relationship, but it's God who allows it and builds it up.

We may start our ministry, but it's God who will grow it. (cf 1 Co 3:6)

5 Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future. 6 But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.

Moses started to build the "house of God", Jesus is also working this house – this house is us . . . He wants us to grow. How do we grow? We must hold on to courage and hope of that God promised us. (Recognize our weaknesses, realize we're imperfect and God can provide all our needs – not gods of money, jobs, careers, relationships, friends, intellect, logic, knowledge . . .)

7 ¶ So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert,

(Listen, God is nudging on your heart, asking you if your ways are right. Don't harden your heart . . . this is what Pharaoh did, and God kept at him, so that he may repent. He's on us too . . . that we may come to Him.)

9 where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did. 10 That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, 'Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.' 11 So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'"

If life is cyclical (you've heard the phrase – "history repeats itself"), then with many nudges of God, if you decide to not accept Him, you'll never see the power of God, or feel the love of God. Unfortunately, those that reject Him even after many nudges will be eternally separated from the grace and love of God.

12 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.

(This is God's message to us)

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.

(And once you come to recognize this, tell people – this is what's in my heart, and why I'm doing this – God's been nudging in my heart too – and through this, He's making me grow)

14 We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.

(There's no such thing as strong or experienced Christians . . . just people no different, but in need of God) – the other end of the spectrum is "religion" – where people are more favored by God because they pray more, give larger offerings, attended service every Sunday, or every morning prayer

15 As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion." 16 Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? 17 And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert?

(Let's seek God together – we need Him – not just for our eternity – but even from where you are today --- Is everything going perfectly ok for your life?)

*18 And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? 19 So we see that they were not able to enter, **because of their unbelief.** (Even when God is nudging, will you not believe?)*

God's nudging now . . . where have you been in your life, and which path would you choose. Seek God and He'll reveal himself to you, and you'll experience there's an abundant life out there . . . all prepared for you.