

# THE SEVEN WARNINGS OF HEBREWS

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**(Ecclesiastes 9:13-18)**

**Hebrews 2:1-4**

Drifting from the Word



**Hebrews 3:7-4:2**

Doubting the Word



**Hebrews 5:11-14**

Dullness toward the Word



**Hebrews 6:1-20**

Departing from the Word



**Hebrews 10:26-39**

Despising the Word



**Hebrews 12:14-21**

Defying the Word



**Hebrews 12:25-29**

Dishonoring the Word

## Drifting from the Word (Hebrews 2:1-4)

- “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away” (v. 1)
- Observe that drifting away is equal to *spiritual negligence*
  - This begins by not being “earnest” in our manner of listening (**Acts 17:16-21, 32**)
  - This leads to wicked procrastination (**Luke 12:35-48**)
  - It deviates far away from spiritual knowledge, resulting in eventually forgetting God’s Word (**James 1:21-25**)

## Doubting the Word (Hebrews 3:7- 4:2)

- “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God” (v. 12)
- The lack of spiritual diligence, sows the toxic seed of doubt.
  - The inspired amanuensis brings to memory the incredulous spirit Israel was notorious for; from the very beginning (v. 8-11).
  - The “day of trial” alluded to is when Israel refused to enter and conquer the promised land due to cowardice (**Numbers 14:20-23**).
  - Because they did not trust in His word, often they disobeyed God and returned in their hearts to Egypt (**Acts 7:38-41**)

## Dullness toward the Word (Hebrews 5:11-14)

- “...since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God...” (v. 11-12)
- Notice that dullness is self-imposed. It is a consequence of choosing to not follow Holy Scripture’s directions.
  - The choice to not follow God’s instruction is equal to despising wisdom (**Proverbs 1:7b**).
  - A stagnate Christian is identified by the loss of keen sight (**2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:5-11**).
  - Note the 3 illustrations of the passage: a sword that lost its edge (v. 11), an outgrown student (v. 12), & an underdeveloped adult (v. 13).



## Departing from the Word (Hebrews 6:1-20)

- “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened...if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame” (v. 4a, 6)
- It is important to understand why it becomes “impossible?”
  - It is a direct consequence of dull hearing (**Ephesians 4:14-16**)
  - Impossible because it is a choice to “crucify again” & put Christ “to an open shame.” This is the same as to deny Christ, to return to the world (**2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:10**, **Genesis 19:26**)
  - Let us heed the warning of the foolish virgins (**Matthew 25:8-13**)

## Despising the Word (Hebrews 10:26-39)

- “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins” (v. 26)
- To “sin willfully” speaks of he who knows he is in sin, but refuses to repent; he feels no shame (**Isaiah 3:9, Zephaniah 3:1-7**).
  - This can also be described as a rebellious, obdurate spirit. Foolishly, it becomes a matter of pride (**Romans 1:18-22**).
  - This is described as “trampling the Son of God,” “counting the blood of the covenant a common thing,” & “insulting the Spirit of grace” (compare: **Mark 3:20-30**).
  - If continued, this will lead to death (**1<sup>st</sup> John 5:14-17**).

## Defying the Word (Hebrews 12:14-21)

- “looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled” (v. 15)
- The illustration of a bitter root is an allusion to Moses’ comparison to rebellious people persisting in idolatry (**Deuteronomy 29:18**)
  - This is a reference to the toxic and poisonous nature of these types of plants that could infect, maybe even kill.
  - It is used often to speak of spiritual infidelity or Divine punishment (i.e. **Proverbs 5:3-4, Jeremiah 9:13-15, & Lamentations 3:19**).
  - Thus, there is no better personification of this image than Esau who blamed others for his wickedness (**Genesis 26:34-35, 27:30-42, 28:6-9**).



## Dishonoring the Word (Hebrews 12:25-29)

- “since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.” (v. 28-29)
- Behold how deep into the abyss of sin the apostate sinks for neglecting so great a salvation.
  - Notice that once more the Sacred text refers to Christ as the Word (compare: **Acts 10:36-43**).
  - Refusing one who speaks His Word is refusing Him (**Matthew 25:41-46, Acts 9:1-5**).
  - It is worse when we do it to each other being the body of Christ. This schism brings dishonor to God among nonbelievers because we are no longer are own; we are one with Him (**Romans 2:24, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:15-20, 12:27**).