

## **No. 46      Maintain Your Confidence Firm to the End**

PLEASE NOTE: This talk is a verse-by-verse discussion of Hebrews chapters 3 and 4. If you wish, you may use the artwork provided to illustrate points where indicated

### **WE NEED TO STRENGTHEN OUR CONFIDENCE (4 min.)**

It takes effort to maintain our confidence in Jehovah God and in his promises

We live in a world marked by skepticism and doubt (Joh 18:38)

At times, we may feel tired or discouraged (Heb 12:3)

The apostle Paul wrote an inspired letter to Hebrew Christians to help them maintain strong faith

Paul's letter no doubt strengthened them, and it can strengthen us too (w98 7/15 9-10 ¶3-7)

### **MEDITATE ON JESUS' EXAMPLE AND LEADERSHIP (6 min.)**

We can gain strength by considering Jesus' faithful example [Read Hebrews 3:1, 2]

Jehovah rewarded Jesus for his faithfulness, and He will reward us too

“Partakers of the heavenly calling” will rule with Jesus; others will gain everlasting life on earth

We need to trust in our invisible Leader, Jesus (Heb 3:3-6; w98 7/15 11 ¶10-11)

The Hebrew Christians needed to remember that Jesus was superior to Moses [Image 1]

Remember that Jesus is more powerful than human rulers and institutions

### **LEARN FROM A WARNING EXAMPLE (10 min.)**

The ancient Israelites are a warning example of people who lost confidence [Read Hebrews 3:7-9]

Despite having seen Jehovah's powerful works, they had doubts and they complained (Ex 17:1-5; 32:1-6)

Because they lacked faith, they lost their promised reward (Nu 13:25-14:4; 14:22, 23; Heb 3:10, 11) [Image 2]

If a person focuses on material things and fleshly pleasures, his faith may weaken [Read Hebrews 3:12]

Weak faith can make him vulnerable to “the deceptive power of sin” [Read Hebrews 3:13]

Such a person may minimize the seriousness of sin and its consequences or find fault with Bible teachings or fellow believers in an effort to justify a wrong course

By our speech and conduct, we can ‘encourage one another’ to resist the power of sin

The Israelites' lack of faith led to disobedience, and they failed to find rest in the Promised Land (Heb 3:14-19)

If we remain strong in faith, we can enjoy a special kind of “rest” now [Read Hebrews 4:1, 2]

To enter God's rest, we must understand his purpose and work in harmony with it (Heb 4:3-10)

This includes obediently applying Bible counsel in our lives (Heb 4:11; w11 7/15 28 ¶16-17)

### **LET “THE WORD OF GOD” MOTIVATE YOU (5 min.)**

We can have confidence in God's word of promise [Read Hebrews 4:12]

Jehovah continues to work in order to accomplish all that he has purposed (w11 7/15 32 ¶20)

We can strengthen our faith by meditating on all that Jehovah has done and is doing

We should read God's written Word, the Bible, daily and act on what we learn

The Bible's message can help us to see ourselves as Jehovah sees us (w11 7/15 29 ¶6)

If we follow God's guidance, we have no reason to fear examination by him (Heb 4:13)

**ACCEPT HELP FROM JEHOVAH AND JESUS (5 min.)**

Jehovah has appointed his Son as our heavenly High Priest (Heb 4:14)

We can strengthen our faith by making “public declaration” about Jesus

If we grow weak in faith or commit a sin, Jehovah and Jesus are eager to assist us [**Read Hebrews 4:15, 16**]

Because of the ransom, we do not need to feel unlovable or beyond help

Through Jesus, we can approach Jehovah freely in prayer (w16.07 23-24 ¶12-13)

We can seek help from Christian elders, who imitate Jesus’ loving example (1Pe 5:2, 3)

If we make use of the help that Jehovah and Jesus provide, we will remain strong in faith, and we will enjoy all that God has promised for our future

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section.

Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

© 2020 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania

S-34-E No. 46 9/20