

DRAW NEAR

PURSUING CHRIST THE FINISHER OF OUR FAITH

Guard Against Unbelief – Hebrews 3:12-14

Beware of an Unbelieving Heart

- Examine your heart
- Beware of drifting from God

Guard Each Other

- Stead and encourage the people around you
- Look for signs of hardening

Hold on to your Confidence

- Salvation requires continued confidence
- Sharing in Christ gives lasting confidence

Application:

What doubts, fears, or distractions draw you away from God? What scriptures encourage you to find confidence in God?

Who can you strengthen and invest in this week? Where are they struggling and how can you help them?

HOW CAN I KNOW GOD?

Repent. There first must be an admission that you have been living as your own master, worshipping the wrong things, violating God’s loving laws. “Repentance” means you ask for forgiveness and turn from that stance with a willingness to live for and center on him.

Believe. Faith is transferring your trust from your own efforts to the efforts of Christ. You were relying on other things to make you acceptable, but now you consciously begin relying on what Jesus did for your acceptance with God. All you need is nothing. If you think, “God owes me something for all my efforts,” you are still on the outside.

Pray after this fashion: “I see I am more flawed and sinful than I ever dared believe, but that I am even more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I turn from my old life of living for myself. I have nothing in my record to merit your approval, but I now rest in what Jesus did and ask to be accepted into God’s family for his sake.”

When you make this transaction, two things happen at once: 1) your accounts are cleared, your sins are wiped out permanently, you are adopted legally into God’s family and 2) the Holy Spirit enters your heart and begins to change you into the character of Jesus.

Follow through. Tell a Christian friend about your commitment. Get yourself training in the basic Christian disciplines of prayer, worship, Bible study, and fellowship with other Christians.