

HEART EXAMINATION

Hebrews 3:12

Frequent warnings in the NT of the need to persevere and the danger of “falling away.” Egs:

Matthew 10:21-22; 24:11-13; 13:18-23 (cf **Luke 8:11-15**)

Revelation 2:1-7

Hebrews 2:1-4; **3:7 – 4:13**; 5:11 – 6:12; 10:19-39; 12:1-29

Consider the succinct statement of **Hebrews 3:12**.

The beginning of a new year is a good time to examine your heart to see if you are closer or further from Christ than last year at this time.

Drifting from Him typically involves 3 steps:

I. Loss of _____ **for God**

As new Christians we are overwhelmed by the love of God:

Ephesians 2:1-10 → 3:16-19. But that love can fade:

Ephesians 6:24

Revelation 2:4 (though still correct belief and doing good things (2:1-7))

- Loss of Gospel **joy**
- Loss of delight in Word and prayer
- Loss of desire to be around other Christians

II. Loss of _____ **of God**

Hebrews 3:**12-13**

Cf. Luke 8 :14

- Loss of the hatred of sin (Proverbs 8:13)
- Procrastinating repentance (Hebrews 3:7-8, 15; 4:7)
- Justifying sin (I Timothy 4:1-2)

III. Loss of _____ **in God**

It is easier to _____ God than to _____ God.

Hebrews 3:12 “**sinful unbelieving heart**” is the outcome Choked (Luke 8:14)

Departure from the Faith is never simply an intellectual issue.

Doubt is mixed with playing with sin and the refusal to “deny oneself... and follow Christ’ (Matthew 16:24)

Chilling warning if you are drifting away (Hebrews 6:4-9!)

BUT: Hebrews 6:10-12

Your hope: Revelation 2:5: **Remember – Repent – Return!**

Is God giving you a gentle warning this morning?

Do you need to get alone with Him today to listen and take stock?

To return to Him at the beginning of this year and start anew?

Promise: **Jude 20-21, 24-25**