

## The Centerpiece

"(v.1) So, my dear Christian friends, companions in following this call to the heights, take a good hard look at Jesus. (v.2) He's the centerpiece of everything we believe, faithful in everything God gave him to do. Moses was also faithful, but Jesus gets far more honor. (v.3) A builder is more valuable than a building any day. (v.4) Every house has a builder, but the Builder behind them all is God. (v.5) Moses did a good job in God's house, but it was all servant work, getting things ready for what was to come. (v.6) Christ as Son is in charge of the house.

(v.7) That's why the Holy Spirit says, today, please listen;

(v.8) don't turn a deaf ear as in 'the bitter uprising,' that time of wilderness testing!

(v.9) Even though they watched me at work for forty years,  
your ancestors refused to let me do it my way;  
over and over they tried my patience.

(v.10) And I was provoked, oh, so provoked! I said, 'They'll never keep their minds on God; they refuse to walk down my road.'

(v.11) Exasperated, I vowed,  
'They'll never get where they're going, never be able to set down and rest.'

(v.12) So watch your step, friends. Make sure there's no evil unbelief lying around that will trip you up and throw you off course, diverting you from the living God. (v.13) For as long as it's still God's Today, keep each other on your toes so sin doesn't slow down your reflexes. (v.14) If we can only keep our grip on the sure thing we started out with, we're in this with Christ for the long haul.

(v.15) These words keep ringing in our ears:

Today, please listen;  
don't turn a deaf ear as in the bitter uprising.

(v.16) For who were the people who turned a deaf ear? Weren't they the very ones Moses led out of Egypt? (v.17) And who was God provoked with for forty years? Wasn't it those who turned a deaf ear and ended up corpses in the wilderness? (v.18) And when he swore that they'd never get where they were going, wasn't he talking to the ones who turned a deaf ear? (v. 19) They never got there because they never listened, never believed."

**Hebrews 3:1-19 (The Message)**

The Centerpiece of All We Believe  
Jesus

**Principles of Faithfulness:**

- A **healthy** focus on Christ encourages us to faithfulness. (3:13)
- Faithfulness is an emotional, intellectual and spiritual **choice**.  
  
(3:13; Psalm 95:7)
- The failure of sin and unbelief can **destroy** faithfulness. (3:12)
- Faithful people **persevere** in commitment until the end. (3:6)
- Faithfulness is **communal** . . . believers depending on others in the Body for encouragement. (3:1; 3:6; 3:14; 3:13)

**Pursue faithfulness:**

Pursue a clear and **healthy** understanding of Jesus.  
(3:14)

Choose to listen and **obey** God's voice as you trust Him.  
(3:8; 3:12)

Faithfulness **flourishes** in an encouraging community of faith.  
(3:13-14)