

Four Major Causes of Spiritual Failure

Heb. 3:12-4:11

Introduction:

- A. Many of the Israelites were spiritual failures.
 - 1. Worshiped Golden Calf.
 - 2. Murmured in the wilderness.
 - 3. Perished in the wilderness.
- A. Christians warned against the same kind of failure.
- B. Notice five major causes of spiritual failure.

Discussion:

I. Unbelief

- A. In the facts of the gospel.
 - 1. The fundamentals.
 - 2. The providence of God (Rom 8:28; Matt. 6:19-33).
 - 3. The the headship of Christ (Eph. 5:23).
- A. In the Promises of the gospel..
 - 1. Heaven and Hell (1 Pet. 1:4; Rev. 21:8).
 - 2. God's help (Heb. 13:5; 1 Cor. 10:13).
- A. In the instructions of the gospel.
 - 1. First principles.
 - 2. Worship.
 - 3. Daily living (cf. Matt. 6:33; Phil. 4:4-7).

II. Worldliness.

- A. A love for sinful elements of world (Jas. 4:4).
- B. An over-emphasis on "this world." or "this life" (2 Tim. 4:10)
 - 1. Its pleasure this life (Lk. 8:14).
 - 2. Its necessities of this (John 6:27; Matt. 6:33)
- C. A spiritually fatal attitude (Rom. 8:6).

III. Fear.

- A. Of duty (Rev. 21:8).
- B. Of failure (Matt. 25:25)

IV. Of isolation (cf. Matt. 7:14; 1 Pet. 3:20).

- A. Of persecution (cf. 2 Cor. 5:1)

V. Misplaced Confidence

- A. In things to provide security (cf. Rich fool, Rev. 3:17).
- B. In self and fellow-man.
 - 1. To solve all problems.
 - 2. To save our souls (cf. Rom.10:1-4; Eph. 2:8, 9).
- A. In human wisdom and power (cf. 1 Cor. 2:5).

Conclusion:

- A. Fortify your faith.
- B. Obey your God.