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 four 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)
D. Of persecution (cf. 2 Cor. 5:1)

IV. 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.