

^[7] Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, ^[8] DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS, ^[9] WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED ME BY TESTING ME AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS. ^[10] THEREFORE I WAS ANGRY WITH THIS GENERATION, AND SAID, 'THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART; AND THEY DID NOT KNOW MY WAYS'; ^[11] AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, 'THEY WILL NOT ENTER MY REST.'" ¹ ^[12] Take care, brethren, unless there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God.

[Hebrews 3:7-12]

In the passage above, did you see what it is which brings God's DISFAVOR upon someone? Let me list the reasons for you. God's DISFAVOR comes upon the one who:

1. *HARDENS* their *HEART* toward God [vs 8]!
2. *PROVOKES* God [vs 8]!
3. *TRIES* God by *TESTING* Him even though they had seen His *WORKS* [vs 9]!
4. *Not knowing God's WAYS, GO ASTRAY* in their *HEART* [vs 10]!

For these reasons, the LORD God said, "THEY WILL NOT ENTER MY REST." You may be wondering why I placed the boxes behind each of these reasons why these would not be allowed to enter God's rest. It is so you can take a self-inventory of yourself to see if you are doing any of these things. Check the box if you are.

Now listen again to Hebrews 3:12 where we are warned to,

Take care, brethren, unless there should be in any one of you an EVIL, UNBELIEVING HEART IN FALLING AWAY FROM THE LIVING GOD.

Having here considered what the people of God's old covenant did to fall away, let us now explore the New Testament Scriptures to see what can cause us to fall into DISFAVOR with God.

Let us begin by considering what Romans 8:5-8 has to say about falling into DISFAVOR with God.

^[5] For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, **BUT** those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ^[6] For the mind set on the flesh is death, **BUT** the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, ^[7] because the MIND SET ON the FLESH IS HOSTILE TOWARD God; **FOR** IT DOES NOT SUBMIT ITSELF TO THE LAW OF God, **FOR** IT IS NOT EVEN ABLE TO DO SO; ^[8] and THOSE WHO ARE IN the FLESH CANNOT PLEASE God.

For me personally that is not the most terrifying part. For me, the most terrifying part is found in the next verse, Romans 8:9. Please listen closely as you learn,

*However, you are not in the flesh **BUT** in the Spirit, **IF** indeed the SPIRIT OF God DWELLS IN YOU. **BUT IF ANYONE DOES NOT HAVE the SPIRIT OF CHRIST, THEY DO NOT BELONG TO HIM.***

¹ Sited from Psalm 95:7-11.

But wait, there is still hope! We see this hope in Romans 8:10-14 where we are taught,
^[10] *And **IF** Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.*

Here in verse ten, the “spirit” which is said to be “alive” is not the Holy Spirit but is the “spirit” which God created with in each and every human being [Zechariah 12:1]. We also see this “spirit” in 1 Thessalonians 5:23, which says,

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and MAY YOUR SPIRIT and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now looking again at Romans 8, in verse 11-14 we are further taught,

^[11] ***BUT IF** the Spirit of Him [God] Who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He [God] Who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit Who INDWELLS you. ^[12] So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh, ^[13] **FOR IF** you ARE LIVING ACCORDING TO the FLESH, you MUST DIE; **BUT IF** by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ^[14] **FOR** ALL WHO ARE BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT OF God, THESE ARE SONS OF God.*

Lord willing, please meet me here tomorrow when we will begin a new series concerning the future of human-kind.

Now please join me in prayer.

O loving Father God, I pray Today thanking You for teaching us the four things we must avoid so that we do not come into disfavor with You. Rather give us hearts to do the things which will bring us into favor with You. I pray this prayer in Jesus Name! Amen!

Please meditate and pray on these things! Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to **know in a greater way** the **One** Who promises in His Word to never leave you nor forsake you [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6,8]!

BECAUSE IF ANYONE DOES NOT HAVE the SPIRIT OF CHRIST, THEY DO NOT BELONG TO CHRIST AND IN THEIR HEART, THEY HAVE FALLEN AWAY FROM THE LIVING GOD! – tom.