

## THROUGH THE BIBLE HEBREWS 3-4

In his paraphrase of the Bible, Eugene Peterson begins Hebrews 3, “So, my dear Christian friends, companions in following this call to the heights, **take a good hard look at Jesus**. He’s the centerpiece of everything we believe, faithful in everything God gave Him to do.” Note the phrase, “*take a good hard look at Jesus!*” This is what the book of Hebrews is all about!

In fact, this is what Christian discipleship is about!

If you want to deepen your commitment - fan the flame of your love for God - build up the muscle of your faith - add to the storehouse of your knowledge - and develop a greater awareness of God’s presence... then here’s the prescription, *take a good hard look at Jesus!*

That’s what we intend to do tonight in Hebrews 3-4!

Chapter 3, “**Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus...**” **Consider Christ!**

Tragically, the Hebrew believers who had received this letter were proof that in this world it’s easy for any of us to get distracted and take our eyes off Jesus.

Peter walked on the water as long as his focus was on the Lord, but as soon as he saw that the wind was boisterous he became afraid and began to sink.

And the winds and waves of circumstance - the boisterousness of modern living - can steal our vision of Jesus. It’s sad that life can get so hectic and frenetic that we forget what really matters. We begin to *major on the minor issues* and *minor on the major issues*.

Strangely, this can happen in church life. We forget our priority, our commonality. We grow preoccupied with the peripheral and trivial - and forget *to keep the main thing the main thing* - *and the main thing is Jesus!*

One commentator writes, “If you would deal aright with the circumference, live at the center. From the Church come back evermore to Jesus, that from Jesus you may the better go back to the Church - bearing the peace and power of the Lord Himself upon you.”

While Jesus was in Jerusalem a Greek delegation approached His disciples. In John 12:21 we're told that they asked Philip simply, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus...”

This should always be our prayer and priority, “*we wish to see Jesus...*” Verse 1 tells us, *consider Christ!*

“Who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house.” (or “among His people.”) Moses faithfully represented God.

As we mentioned last week the book of Hebrews was written to a band of Jewish believers struggling with their Jewish roots. They had embraced Jesus as Messiah, *but what about the traditions of Judaism?*

Spouses, parents, siblings, community leaders were exerting tremendous pressure on these converts.

The opponents of Christianity were adamant - faith in Jesus was not enough, you needed to obey the rules and adhere to the rituals of Judaism. These Hebrew believers were struggling to sort out their allegiances.

In this book the author compares the institutions of Judaism with the person of Jesus - *and he concludes there's no comparison!* Jesus is better than any other way of relating to God! It's better to believe in the risen Christ than to follow the precepts of a dead religion.

In chapters 1-2 we're shown that Jesus is better than [the prophets, the Law, and the angels](#). Now chapters 3-4 explain how He's better than [Moses and Joshua](#).

Verse 3, **“For this One** (referring to Jesus) **has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses...”**

Realize, among the Hebrews Moses was not only the most revered Jew who ever lived - he was the greatest human. He was a *hero* with no peers. Except for one incident He faithfully led Israel for 40 years...

*Moses spoke to God face to face.*

*Wielded miraculous power.*

*Humbled a tyrannical Pharaoh and mighty Egypt.*

*Liberated His people from 430 year of slavery.*

*Delivered God's law to His people and the world. Forevermore, to be called, “[The Law of Moses.](#)”*

*Sculpted a band of former slaves into a nation.*

*Converted servants into a fighting army.*

*Led their 3 million people through a barren desert.*

In fact, Moses was so revered that when he died the angel Michael buried his body in a hidden grave so the Jews wouldn't be tempted to worship his bones.

In early 2000, Ariel Sharon and George Bush were scheduled for a meeting. Sharon was late, and Bush was upset. Sharon told him, “Mr. President, I’m sorry, but I was talking to someone more important than you.”

Bush was thinking, “*How dare him! Who could be more important than the President of the United States?*” Sharon told him, “I was talking to Moses.”

Bush was impressed. He said, “Can I talk to Moses?”

Sharon pulled out his cell phone, and whispered a conversation... Finally, he turns to George W. and informs him, “Mr. President, I’m sorry, but Moses said he doesn’t want to talk to you... The last time he talked to a Bush it cost him forty years in the wilderness.”

Moses may be more important than an American President, but in verse 3 the writer of Hebrews assures us that he pales in significance to the King of kings.

Jesus is worthy of more glory than Moses “*inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house.*” In the construction of “*the house* (or nation) *of Israel*” Moses was a tool in God’s hand. But Jesus is the builder! Jesus is the Divine Contractor. In Matthew 16:18 the Lord Jesus declared, “*I will build My Church.*”

Jesus is building God’s Kingdom. Verse 4, “*For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.*” Notice the implication - *if God builds all things, and Jesus builds the Church, then Jesus must be God.*

Here’s a powerful proof-text for the deity of Christ.

Jesus is the builder of the house of God – a member of the Godhead. Moses, just a hammer in His toolbox.

“And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, but Christ as a Son over His own house...” Moses was a *servant* in God’s house, but Jesus is *God’s Son*. Moses compared to Jesus is like Mike Smith compared to Arthur Blank. Smith coaches the Atlanta Falcons, but King Arthur owns the team.

Moses was a *hired-hand* - Jesus is the *heir*.

And notice another implication in verse 6, the Church is referred to as “*His own house*.” You and I are considered the house in which Jesus dwells. He hangs out among us. He’s revealed through our fellowship.

That is, *if* we continue in our faith. For verse 6 adds, “*whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.*”

Throughout the book of Hebrews it becomes clear that a believer’s membership in God’s family - *our salvation and spiritual status* - depends on our perseverance... “*whose house we are if we hold fast...*”

To be saved we have to “*hold fast... firm to the end.*”

And to illustrate our need for perseverance, the writer reminds the Jews of their wanderings through the wilderness. The ancient Israelis began well, but ended poorly because they didn’t continue in their faith.

Verse 7, “*Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says...*” and he quotes Psalm 95, “*Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness, where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, and saw My works forty years.*”

Rather than trust God, they tested and tried God. The wilderness wanderers pushed God's patience.

The Hebrews who exited Egypt refused to take God at His word. They insisted over and over that He do something to prove Himself... You'd think Moses turning the river to blood, or parting the Red Sea would've sealed their faith forever - but understand, miracles alone are not what produce faith. **More often than not all miracles create is a lust for more miracles.**

Faith grows by taking God at His Word.

God has done more than enough miracles to prove Himself to us. It's now time we rested in His promises.

In verse 10 God said of the faithless Jews who tested Him, **"Therefore I was angry with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways.'"**

The Jews who followed Moses were acquainted with God's *works*. For 40 years they saw Him work miracles on a daily basis, but they never learned God's *ways*.

They treated God like a circus act.

Let's watch Him perform... We want God to do His death-defying stunts on the trapeze, or get shot out of a cannon, but let's not sit at His feet and let Him teach us to live a better way... Even today, folks want to see miracles, as long as they can do life as they please.

Yet this is the approach that God rejected.

*Look for God's works, without listening to His words, and living His way, and He'll sentence you to perpetual restlessness. You can kiss the peace of God goodbye.*

*You'll spend your whole life wandering in a spiritual wilderness. Hebrews promises us in verses 11-12, "So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'"*

*Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God..."*

*Verse 13, "But exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." The hardening of a heart is a subtle occurrence. It can begin on a spiritual highpoint.*

*After you've climbed the mountain, or overcome the obstacle, or won a victory - that's when you're tempted to think you've reached the end of the struggle...*

*Next time we can coast... It won't be as strenuous now... We can slack off... Cut a few corners... And all of a sudden a spiritual resistance sets in. Our faith is no longer persevering, holding fast, pressing on. A wall goes up between us and God. We harden just a little...*

*That's why the writer of Hebrews tells us to exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today..." Be vigilant today. Never take a day off from faith - from trusting and walking with Jesus. Encourage each other daily!*

*"For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end..."*

*Notice this is an "if" statement. It's conditional. You will be a partaker of Christ and all the blessings He brings "if" you're steadfast in faith - and finish in faith.*

The Hebrews had started well. They'd embraced the sufficiency of Christ with their whole heart. Jesus was all they needed, *but* doubts had crept in... their confidence had waned... they weren't so sure if Jesus was enough. What about the Law, the Temple, the sacrifices, the feasts days - the trappings of Judaism?

Their initial faith was unraveling.

And they're warned to be vigilant - persevere - you become a partaker of Christ not by once having faith, but by continuing in that faith "*steadfast to the end.*"

Verse 15, "*While it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."*

Again he quotes Psalm 95:7-8. Every Jew knew these words by heart. They were the verses used in the synagogue to call Jews to the evening worship.

One man said, "*These solemn words were intoned week after week, year after year, as a call to carefully listen to the voice of God.*" Yet, sadly, though the Jews *heard* these words every week, many never took *heed*.

Apparently, *hearing and heeding are not the same.*

In the late 1950s a conversation occurred between a Boeing engineer and a passenger right after the introduction of Boeing's first commercial jet - the 707.

The employee of the manufacturer spoke confidently about the precision of the new airplane's engineering - the extensiveness of the testing that it had undergone.

Finally, the fellow passenger asked, "*Have you ever flown in the 707?*" The engineer answered, "*Nope, I think I'll wait until it's been flying for a while.*"



It's one thing to *acquire and admire* information, its quite another thing to *act* on the information acquired.

*To acquire and admire is not to act.*

*To hear is not to heed.*

These Hebrews knew the *facts about Christ*, now they needed to really hold on to their *faith in Christ!*

“**For who, having heard, rebelled?**” He returns to his analogy of Israel and their resistance in the wilderness.

Just because you once believed doesn't mean you can't later rebel. “**Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness?**” The same folks who believed God in Egypt, later died in the wilderness.

Even the mighty Moses couldn't insure their faith.

Moses was able to break the will of a stubborn Pharaoh - put God's miracles on display - split the vast ocean - bring bread from heaven - but He couldn't convince the hard-hearted Hebrews to trust in God.

Moses failed to bring His people into God's rest.

Ultimately, he ended up frustrated. The generation that exited Egypt died in the wilderness. The only two exceptions were the faithful spies, Joshua and Caleb.

As godly a man as Moses was, he failed in his mission. Moses brought Israel out of Egyptian slavery, but He couldn't bring them into the Promised Land.

*They escaped bondage, but never entered God's blessing and bounty. They gained their freedom, but never God's rest. They were saved, but didn't enjoy it.*

And this describes the status of people today. They're out of Egypt, but not yet in the Promised Land.

They've been freed from sin and bondage by Jesus their Deliverer. They passed through the Red Sea of baptism - but never entered into the land flowing with milk and honey - the land of blessing... They're *saved*, but not *satisfied* - they're *forgiven*, but not *fulfilled*.

Listen to how author Kent Hughes describes it, "The problem today is that so many people when asked about faith point to their 'exodus' - when they began with Christ. They can wax eloquent about their experiences. How dare anyone question that!

They "went forward" - left Egypt - they were baptized and identified with God's people. But troubles came, and they turned away. Their "exodus" is a convenient memory. But to trust God now? That is a problem, for their faith is dead." In short, **a faith that was - isn't necessarily a faith that is.** How current is your faith?

The people of Israel might've been delivered from Egypt, but they never made it out of the wilderness.

Verse 18, "And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief." When the choice was made at the threshold of Canaan - at the oasis of Kadesh Barnea - only two men believed in the truth of God's promise.

The other ten spies saw only giants, and fortified cities - just the obstacles. All the spies saw the same situation, but what the doubters saw as *stumbling blocks*, Joshua and Caleb saw as *stepping stones*.

*The difference?* Eyes of faith. The two who believed entered. The people that didn't died in the wilderness.

Chapter 4, "Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it..." As a kid growing up in Church I heard folks talk about "sins and shortcomings." For years I wondered, "*what is a shortcoming?*" I felt sorry for gentlemen under 5'-8" - *maybe they were guilty?*

But a shortcoming is **the sin of coming up short.**

Having watched three billion Little League baseball games over the years I've seen kids slide into a base ahead of the throw. Everyone assumes they're safe, but then the smoke clears and there's the little guy's foot eight inches from the base... *He came up short!*

Well, this is a shortcoming – you start out, but don't quite make it home. You launch out on the journey of faith, but get derailed on the way, and fail to persevere.

It's "salvation without sanctification" - "forgiveness without fulfillment" - "deliverance, but no delight."

Israel exited Egypt, but the Hebrew nation under Moses came up short of entering the Promised Land.

And here was their mistake, verse 2, "For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed

with faith in those who heard it.” The Hebrews never applied God’s Word to their life in practical ways.

The key to entering God’s rest and blessing is faith! And to prove it He cross-references several verses...

“For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said (again from Psalm 95): "So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest,'" although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all His works" (Genesis 2:2) ; and again in this place (again Psalm 95): "They shall not enter My rest."

Here’s what the writer of Hebrews is saying - *God has finished His work!* On the Seventh day He rested from creation and God has been resting ever since.

God fashioned a perfect world - a masterpiece. There was nothing lacking in all that God had done.

And this remains His posture. He’s left no promises on the table - no loose ends He needs to tie up.

Thus, God has everything under control. He never gets uptight. With God the end has been worked out from the beginning. Today, God relaxes – and He wants us to join Him! We can share in God’s own rest!

When my kids were little I owned a hammock.

Whenever I finished my yard work I’d spend a few minutes of recovery in that hammock – and my kids always loved to join me. They would stop whatever they were doing to swing with dad in his hammock.

And here the Father is inviting His kids to join Him in His hammock - but we too have to stop what we're doing - *even for God* - and rest in what He has done for us. We join in *His* rest – not try to produce our own.

We find joy, take hope, experience His sufficiency, realize our own fulfillment - not in the work we might do, but in what God accomplished through the cross.

Hudson Taylor, missionary to China, had a little jingle he was fond of quoting... God speaks to us, **“Bear not a single care thyself. One is too much for thee. The work is mine, and mine alone. Thy work, to rest in Me.”**

On the seventh day God rested - He's still resting - and He wants us to adopt this very same posture.

He wants us to mix some faith with truth. Start living as if God has everything in control, *because He does*.

Verse 6, **“Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, again He designates a certain day, saying in David, “Today,” after such a long time, as it has been said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.”**

God entered His own rest after the Creation, and He invited the Hebrews to join Him in that rest after He brought them out of the Promised Land. Unfortunately, they failed to experience His promise for lack of faith.

But 400 years later, through the pen of David in Psalm 95, God issued the promise again. Long after Israel's failure in the wilderness, God still promised, **“If you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.”**

The writer of Hebrews is proving to His readers that God's rest is still available to God's people.

He promised this rest to Moses and his followers in 1445 BC. He reiterated the promise 400 years later in Psalm 95. The point is that God's rest is still available. This promised rest is for all God's people, for all time.

“For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day.” Even Joshua, Moses' successor, failed to bring Israel into God's rest. Thus, David still makes the offer years later.

Israel had two great national heroes - Moses and Joshua - but neither brought God's people God's rest.

That's why verse 9 tells us, “There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.” And Jesus is better than both Moses and Joshua, for He leads us into this rest.

The next few verses tell us how...

“For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.” When God entered His rest it involved ceasing from His work.

For six days, God accomplished certain tasks that His righteousness required that He complete. But once His work was finished, He rested. I don't think that rest involved inaction. God didn't go into a comatose state.

I think the difference is that for six days God did what was *obligatory*. On the seventh day His activity was *celebratory*. There's a difference... obligation is work that's required. Celebration is work that's a response.

And this is what it means to enter God's rest.

Not to become inactive - but to realize at the cross of Christ all that needed to be done for me to be right with God was finished. I can add nothing to what Jesus did.

My requirement was fulfilled by Christ. I'm no longer under obligation - *that's the rest, the freedom, the joy.*

Now what I do for God is out of *celebration* not *obligation*. I praise, serve, pray and witness not to earn God's favor, but because I already have it in Christ.

That's why verse 11 tells us, "Let us therefore be diligent (or literally, *labor*) to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience."

This sounds contradictory... *we labor to rest?*

Yet here's the point, entering God's rest does take major effort. We need to hold fast to Jesus! Have faith *in* Jesus! Consider Christ! Keep our eyes on Jesus!

Corrie Ten Boom once said, "Look within and be depressed. Look without and be distressed. But look to Jesus and be at rest." And it takes effort to keep looking in the right direction - to avoid distractions.

Having faith isn't passive. It's active. It's aggressive. It's looking, and fixating, and holding, and clutching...

We don't labor to *earn* God's rest - it can't be earned, it's a free gift - but we labor to *enter* it and *enjoy* it!

Think of the difference between *digging a ditch* and *planning a party*. Trust me, digging a ditch is obligation, whereas planning a party is celebration. Both are labor, but only the former seems like it. It may sound contradictory, but it's not, we labor to enter God's rest.

Verse 12, “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword...”

The Greek word translated “*sword*” refers to “the Roman short sword, or dagger.” It was an ancient weapon designed for combat at close range. It did its damage through up-close, face-to-face penetration.

And this is how God’s Word works... at short range.

When we apply it personally it has the ability to penetrate a facade, and knife through any resistance.

The Bible is “*living*” or **active**. It has a life of its own.

It’s “*powerful*” or **effective**. It can transform a life.

And it’s “*sharp*” or **incisive**. It cuts to the chase and gets to the point. It uncovers the real, heart issues.

And it’s sharper than a two-edged sword. It slices coming and going. It’s not only a weapon to use on the enemy. It’s a surgeon’s scalpel the Holy Spirit turns on us. *The Holy Spirit does open heart on the inner man!*

The Scriptures are able to (*pierce*) even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow...”

In other words, God’s Word untangles flesh from faith - it sorts out what’s of me and what’s of God. It differentiates between the heavenly and the human.

We’re told the Bible is “a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” It can manicure our motives.



Once, a young guy walked into an ole country barber shop. The shop was decorated with trophies of wild animals. There was a deer's head, a wild fox, a wild turkey – as well as several stuffed birds. But this young man wasn't impressed. He happened to be studying taxidermy, and he was extremely critical of the work.

He pointed to the owl sitting on the shelf – “look at those drooping wings, and the crook in the leg, and the angle of the head – it looks so unnatural.”

He went on and on with his critique until suddenly the owl turned its head and winked. The bird was alive! The fellow had been criticizing the life-likeness of a live bird. And this is also true of the Bible's critics.

They're critiquing a live book. Berate it, deny it - say what you want about the Word of God - but when its ready it'll fly off the shelf to do exactly as it pleases!

The Bible is the only book that's self-propelled.

When you hear it or read it the author Himself works in your heart to help you grasp the message.

If you're a fisherman you know its almost always better to use live bait. And the same is true when you're fishing for men. Learn you're Bible, then share it with other people. *It's live bait!* It wiggles. It's alive!

Verse 13, “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” God sees all.

Once, I had a couple come for marriage counseling.

They prefaced the conversation by informing me that they didn't want anyone to know they were having problems, *especially God*. Sorry, God is the one true know-it-all! There's nothing hidden from His view.

There is no secret to which God is not privy.

This week I read where we all should be leery of the government reading our emails. Nothing is secure.

Well, be suspicious of Uncle Sam, but I'll tell you God does read your emails! Your encryptions don't work with God. *He sees your emails, listens to your conversations, reads your texts.* Nothing is hidden!

Verse 14, "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession." Here's another reason to hold onto our faith - Jesus is "*a great High Priest!*" He's better than the priests of Judaism!

It reminds me of the lady pulled over by the police. The officer noticed her license required her to wear eye-glasses. They were missing. When the policeman inquired she said, "But officer I have contacts."

The policeman said firmly, "Lady, I don't care who you know you've got to wear your glasses to drive!"

But it's true. Sometimes, it's not as much, *what you know*, as it is *who you know*. Contacts - connections - go a long way in this life... *and* in the life to come.

This is why one of the central components of Jewish religion was its system of priests and Levites. Of the 12 tribes an entire tribe was devoted to lead the people in worship. The sole occupation of the Levites was to intercede for the people in their relationship with God.

And this gave the people of God confidence. Even if their sin caused God to turn a deaf ear to their prayers, they still had a contact who would stand in their place.

And of all the priests, the one most respected was the High Priest. Once a year he entered the holiest room in the Temple to pay off the nation's sin.

Yet as believers in Jesus these Hebrews had turned their back on the priesthood. To the shock of parents and friends they'd thrown away this confidence. And they were being asked, *"If you no longer reverence the priesthood how do you expect to gain access to God?"*

Well, according to verse 14 the Hebrews still have a priest - and not a High Priest, but *"a great High Priest."*

Jesus entered, not just the earthly Temple, but Heaven itself. These Hebrews had not lost their confidence at all. They'd gained a greater confidence!

He writes, *"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."*

Unlike the Jewish Priest, Jesus is a perfect priest.

He's God, thus He *clearly represents God's truth*. But He's also man, and *closely understand our needs*.

Thus, He's qualified on both ends of the connection.

For years entertainer Bob Hope led trips to Vietnam to humor the troops. Once, reminiscing on his USO shows he made the statement, *"All I ever saw was those kids laughing and applauding. I never knew what they were going through until I saw a*

couple of movies like *'Platoon'* and *'Hamburger Hill'*! What courage they had - and fighting a war we wouldn't let them win."

Unlike Hope's visits to Vietnam, when Jesus visited us He didn't stay on a stage and simply perform.

He invaded the jungle - got into the trenches. He was subjected to the Napalm and sniper fire. He fought the battle as one of the troops - and prevailed - without sin.

Here we're told, Jesus was tempted in all points as we are... That means *an active libido, a curiosity, a temper with a fuse*. Jesus was a man, and vulnerable to the temptations of all men. Yet He never caved in!

Jesus was tempted with everything Satan has ever thrown at you or me, yet He never once succumbed.

Jesus stayed sinless, and as a result is perfectly suited to help you and me win in our struggle for purity.

I've met people who doubt Jesus's ability to empathize. How can the Son of God really understand the temptation I face? Jesus never sinned, how can He understand the lure of darkness and the pull of sin.

C.S. Lewis answers this important question, "Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is. You find out the strength of an army by fighting against it, not by giving in. You find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down.

A man who gives into temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later... We never find out the strength of an evil impulse... until we try to fight it: and Christ, because He was the only man who never

yielded to temptation, is also the only man who knows to the full what temptation means.” Jesus knows more than you think.

A thin rubber band can be stretched only so far and it snaps. It never experiences a high degree of tension because it snaps before the tension is ever applied.

But take a thicker rubber band, and it handles more. You can stretch it further because it refuses to break.

*So which rubber band feels the greater tension? Obviously, the rubber band that refuses to break.*

And the fact Jesus didn't break enabled Him to endure all Satan could muster. We whimper and quibble, *“nobody knows what I'm going through...”*

Oh, yes they do. Jesus does. Your temptation is kid's stuff compared to what He endured. He empathizes.

He knows your struggle and how to win the victory.

And since Jesus understands, verse 16, **“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need...”** or *literally, “when we need it the most.”*

God gives us the mercy and grace and comfort and power that we need at the exact moment we need it!

Peterson paraphrases verse 16, **“So let's walk right up to Him and get what He is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help.”** When you go to God you don't have to call ahead and make an appointment.

You can walk in - not haughtily or rudely - but you can enter God's throne room like you belong! For in Christ you do! Jesus secures us total access to God!

So, let's enter God's presence *unashamedly, unreservedly, uninhibitedly*. You can come to God just as you are - the sacrifice is done - access has been won - you can come boldly to receive God's help!