

YOU CANNOT LIVE HERE FOREVER

HEBREWS 3:1

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: You saw in Chapter 2 encouragement to grow in your faith and warning not to drift or ignore your salvation. Chapter 3 has the same pattern—encouragement and warning. A good way to start your daily special time with Jesus is to remember the following three encouragements:

YOU ARE READY HERE because you are already holy. You (a believer in Jesus) have traded your sin for God's righteousness. Having His righteousness is having God Himself—His character! His Holy Spirit now lives in you. Therefore, in God's eyes you are a saint and set apart and ready to do the works that He has planned for you. Christ's death on the cross to pay for your sin made God's holiness for you possible. When you trusted Him, He credited His holiness to your account and now He sees you as holy. To be holy "particularly means perfect, without blemish". Spiros Zodhiates, The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament, #40. (**Hebrews 3:1, II Corinthians 5:17, fn 5:17, II Corinthians 5:21, fn 5:21, Hebrews 10:1-14, fn 10:14, Hebrews 12:14, fn 12:14**) *How did God make you, a believer, holy?*

YOU ARE ALREADY THERE because you are a citizen of heaven. "Judaism was an earthly calling with an earthly inheritance. Christianity is a spiritual and heavenly calling with a spiritual and heavenly inheritance." John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Hebrews, p. 75. To experience by faith the presence of the Holy Spirit as a citizen of heaven is to have a taste of the glorious joy that awaits you. (**Hebrews 3:1, John 4:24, fn 4:24, Philippians 3:20, 21, fn 3:20, Ephesians 1:3, fn 1:3, Hebrews 12:22, fn 12:22**) *How could you remember your heavenly citizenship in your daily struggles?*

SO SET YOUR MIND NOW. For you to increasingly live with the joy of realizing the precious things that belong to you now and later in your perfect heavenly home, you must continually practice setting your mind on Jesus. When His presence in you is fully realized, you will experience His love, joy, peace, and hope; but you also will be glad that instead of living here forever you will be with Him. (**Hebrews 3:1, fn 3:1[2nd], Hebrews 12:1-3, fn 12:1-4, Colossians 3:1-3, fn 3:2, 3, Isaiah 26:3, fn 26:3, I Peter 1:7, 8, fn 1:8, 9**) *How does setting your mind on Jesus help you to have joyful anticipation of seeing Him face to face?*

As you daily study the truths about Jesus, in what ways is the presence of the Holy Spirit revealing to you God's majesty and glory?