

## How To Stay Off the Spiritual Casualty List

12 Precautions (Hebrews 3:12 – 4:16)

1. **Admit** that you could become a spiritual casualty (12)
2. Perform a heart **check-up** (12)
3. Make encouragement from others **easy to get** (13)
4. Ask others to watch your **blind side** (13)
5. Understand that there are no **prizes for quitters** (14)
  - You lose your rewards in heaven (2 John 1:8)
  - You miss the chance to earn rewards
  - You set yourself up to God's punishment
  - You lose your joy for living (Rom 15:13; 2 Cor 8:2; Gal 5:22; 1 John 1:4)
  - You stack the deck against your marriage
  - You start your kids on a course for hell (Mark 9:42)
  - You encourage other saved people to give up too
  - You give unsaved people more arguments to stay away
  - You lose the chance to make life really count (Mt 16:24-27)
  - You are afraid to die, because you have to face Jesus (Mark 8:35-38, 1 John 2:28)
  - You lose the chance of a full return (1 Cor 9:27; 1 Tim 1:18-20)
  - You lose your qualification to lead in the future
  - You miss the chance to fully experience God in this life
  - You miss God's intended purpose for your life
  - You discover that all that sin promised was a lie, and you fell for it. (John 12:25-26, Rom 13:12ff, Heb 10:35)
  - You miss out on God's inner peace (Phil 4:6-7)
6. Learn from those who've **blown it** (before **you** do) (16-18)

### Hebrews 3

12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

15 while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, [was it] not all who came out of Egypt, [led] by Moses?

17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? [Was it] not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness?

18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?

19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

7. Take both necessary **truth** steps: **learn it & live it** (4:1-6)

8. Work **hard & steady** for Christ (4:11)

9. Allow the Bible to **search** your **heart** (12)

10. Remind yourself that **God sees everything** you do (13)

11. Develop a "**hang-on-no-matter-what**" **mindset** (14)

12. Ask **God** for the **help** He's offered for the asking (15-16)

### Hebrews 4

1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

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.]

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

4 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";

5 and again in this [place:] "They shall not enter My rest."

6 Since therefore it remains that some [must] enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience,

7 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."

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day.

9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.

10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God [did] from His.

11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

12 For the word of God [is] living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

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.

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.

15 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.

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.