Evil Heart of Unbelief

1. Jer 7:24 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, **but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart**, and went backward, and not forward.
2. Jer 11:8 Yet they obeyed not, nor inclined their ear, **but walked every one in the imagination of their evil heart: therefore** I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do; but they did them not.
3. Jer 16:11-12 Then shalt thou say unto them, **Because your fathers have forsaken me, saith the LORD, and have walked after other gods**, and have served them, and have worshipped them, and have forsaken me, and have not kept my law; And ye have done worse than your fathers; for, **behold, ye walk every one after the imagination of his evil heart, that they may not hearken unto me:**
4. Jer 18:11-12 Now therefore go to, speak to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, **I frame evil against you, and devise a device against you: return ye now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.** And they said, **There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart.**
5. Heb 3:12-14 **Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God**. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;
6. **Barnes' Notes**

[An evil heart of unbelief] An evil, unbelieving heart. The word "unbelief" is used to qualify the word "heart," by a Hebraism-a mode of speech that is common in the New Testament. **An unbelieving heart was the cause of "their" apostasy, and what worked their ruin will produce ours. The root of their evil was "a want of confidence in God" -** and this is what is meant here by a heart of unbelief. **The great difficulty on earth everywhere is a "want of confidence in God" - and this has produced all the ills that man has ever suffered**. It led to the first apostasy; and it has led to every other apostasy-and will continue to produce the same effects to the end of the world. The apostle says that this heart of unbelief is "evil." **Men often feel that it is a matter of little consequence whether they have faith or not, provided their conduct is right; and hence, they do not see or admit the propriety of what is said about the consequences of unbelief in the Scriptures**. But what do they say about a want of confidence between a husband and wife?

Are there no evils in that? What husband can sleep with quietness on his pillow, if he has no confidence in the virtue of his wife? **What child can have peace who has no confidence in a parent?** How can there be prosperity in a community where there is no confidence in a bank, or an insurance office, or where one merchant has no confidence in another; where a neighbor has no confidence in his neighbor; where the sick have no confidence in a physician, and where in general all confidence is broken up between man and man? If I wished to produce the deepest distress in any community, and had the power, I would produce the same want of confidence between man and man which there is now between man and his Maker. I would thus take away sleep from the pillow of every husband and wife; every parent and child; and make every man wretched with the feeling that all the property which he had was insecure. **Among people, nothing is seen to be productive of greater evil than a want of confidence or faith-and why should not the same evil exist in the divine administration? And if want of confidence produces such results between man and man, why should it not produce similar, or greater, miseries where it occurs in relation to God? There is not an evil that man endures which might not be alleviated or removed by confidence in God; and hence one great object of the Christian religion is, to restore to man his lost confidence in the God that made him.**

**Aurther W. Pink - Hebrews**

"Take heed brethren." The introducing here of this blessed and tender title of God's saints is very searching. Those unto whom the apostle was writing, might object, "The scripture you have cited has no legitimate application to us; that passage describes the conduct of unbelievers, whereas we are believers." **Therefore does the apostle again address them as "brethren;**" nevertheless, he bids them "take heed." **They were not yet out of danger, they were still in the wilderness**. Those mentioned in Psalm 95 began well, witness their singing the praises of Jehovah on the farther shores of the Red Sea (Exodus 15). They too had avowed their fealty to the Lord: "all the people answered together, and said, All that the Lord has spoken we will do" (Exodus 19:8); **yet the fact remains that many of them apostatized and perished in the wilderness. Therefore the searching relevancy of this word, "take heed brethren lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief."**

"In departing from the living God." The reference here is plainly to the Lord Jesus Himself. In Matthew 16:16 the Father is denominated "the living God," here and in 1 Timothy 4:10 the Son is, in 2 Corinthians 6:16 (cf. 1 Corinthians 3:16) the Holy Spirit is. The reason for the application of this Divine title to the Savior in this verse is apparent: the temptation confronting the Hebrews was not to become atheists, but to abandon their profession of Christianity. The unbelieving Jews denounced Jesus Christ as an impostor, and were urging those who believed in Him to renounce Him and return to Judaism, and thus return to the true God, Jehovah. That Christ is God the apostle had affirmed here, in verse 4, and he now warns them that so far from the abandonment of the Christian profession and a return to Judaism being a going back to Jehovah, it would be the "departing from the living God." That Christ was the true and living God had been fully demonstrated by the apostle in the preceding chapters of this epistle.

The extent to which and the manner in which the warning from Psalm 95 and the admonition of Hebrews 3:12 applies to Christians today, we must leave for consideration until the next chapter. In the meantime let us heed the exhortation of 2 Peter 1:10, "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure," and while attending to this duty, let us pray the more frequently and the more earnestly for God to deliver us from "an evil heart of unbelief."

Prov 26:12 **Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit?** there is more hope of a fool than of him.

Prov 28:14 14 Happy is the man that feareth alway: **but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.**

Many “believers” today are living lives of unbelief! Yes, they have faith, been baptized in Jesus name and talk in tongues. They wear the right clothes, pay tithes, and even worship. But their daily lives are empty, and have no idea what Jesus meant by living an abundant life.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that **they might have it more abundantly.**

They live in a wasteland of depression, and doubt and actually “medicating” themselves with a religious lifestyle that still leaves them empty inside.

The degree of their unbelief can vary depending on what idols they have built up in their lives over the years, or the wounds they encountered from the tramua of life.

These folks are not rebellious as some men think, but rather need help to clean out the clutter and tear down the idols of unbelief. One of the Works of the Flesh - Gal 5:20 **Idolatry**, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

I spent many years allowing these idols to be built in my life without even understanding what was happening. I knew something was wrong with me, even to the point I thinking I had a devil. But the Lord revealed to me what had caused it and what the problem was. I repented on my knees and asking forgiveness for having a “evil heart of unbelief.”

When I did this the anger, depression, deadness of heart and suicidle thoughts left me and it felt that a stone was lifted off my chest.

We have many good people in our churches that we have failed to remove the grave clothes of their past and they are dying inside the walls of our churches!!