

# The Hardened Heart

[Hebrews 3:7-19](#)

There are people who, despite having heard the Gospel repeatedly, continue to reject God's appeal to them. There are also believers who once faithfully attended church and served the Lord in many capacities, and yet have drifted away. Both situations describe a hardened heart.

## 1. What is a hardened heart?

This term applies to someone who is unimpressed by the Word of God and insensitive to His voice. This person is indifferent, unyielding, resistant, and calloused when it comes to spiritual matters. The evident trait associated with this spiritual condition is a refusal to listen or obey. The Scriptures give us several examples of people with hardened hearts:

Pharaoh ([Exodus 4:21; 7:3, 13, 22; Exodus 7-11](#))

The Hebrew children ([Psalms 95:8](#))

The disciples ([Mark 6:52](#))

## 2. How does the heart become hardened?

It is a process for which we are personally responsible. Unbelief is the root cause ([Mark 16:14](#)), but when we seek God's remedy, He will prevent hardness of heart from setting in. ([Mark 9:24](#)) If we persist in unbelief, however, the result will be rebellion against God. ([1 Samuel 15:23](#))

As we begin to entertain thoughts that are displeasing to God, it doesn't take much before we act on them. What may start as a single incidence of sin can all too easily be repeated and turn into a habit. Our conscience will initially sound an alarm ([Romans 2:14-15](#)), but as we persist in our sinful attitude and behavior, we turn a deaf ear to that inner warning signal and eventually even justify our unholy decisions.

When we become increasingly entrenched in that manner of thinking and behavior, it is not uncommon to resist reproof and become insensitive to reason and instruction from God's Word.

## 3. What can cause a hardened heart?

Preoccupation with wrong priorities, such as worldly desires and goals ([Matthew 6:33](#))

Neglect of private devotions and public worship ([Hebrews 10:25](#))

The deceitfulness of sin, which falsely promises fulfillment ([James 1:13-16](#))

Hardening of the heart can cause you to fall away and miss God's best for you. Therefore, be sure to conduct regular "checkups." Pray for God to search your heart and reveal any areas of resistance to Him. ([Psalms 26:2, 139:23-24; Jeremiah 12:3; 1 Thessalonians 2:4](#)) Also, ask someone, perhaps an accountability partner, to watch you for signs of a hardening heart. ([Romans 15:14](#))