

Risking It

Today's Reading
Hebrews 3:1-19

Accountability.

For most, the very word has a negative connotation to it. It brings with it feelings of mistrust and visions of interrogation under a dangling light bulb in an otherwise dimly lit room. But the word of God portrays something healthier...something more vital and even welcome. The Scriptures depict a concern for my faithfulness to Christ and for your devotion to Him that is so deep that we accept and invite encouragement from one another.

Let's take a closer look. In the book of Hebrews, the author wrote of his concern that the believers of the day not jettison their faith as a result of the manifold pressures they experienced. He mentioned the confident start they had made in following Christ. He described the faithful finish God desired of them. But the path between a confident start and the faithful finish includes potential problems that require sensitivity today. Be sensitive to the Lord... today. Don't harden your heart... today. Do obey...today. Don't fall into sin...today. And when tomorrow becomes "today," be sensitive to the Lord again. Once

you have made a confident start, if you string together enough "sensitive todays", you will one day discover yourself making a faithful finish!



Sensitivity today, however, is not just my hope for me and your hope for you. It is a concern that we so desire for each other that we lovingly "encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today" (3:13). In other words, there is a level of gentle accountability that is shared in the body of Christ. I need that from you. You need that from me! You want to help me walk faithfully with Christ today, so you cheer me on and challenge me in areas of weakness. I am so cheering for you that you will obey the Lord today that I bring words of affirmation or of warning.

That is accountability in its most natural form. It is God's plan for relationships in the local church. It is worth the risk!