



## Hebrews 4:1-2

(1) Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. (2) For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

*King James Version*

Perhaps the hardest thing for us to do is to keep on track spiritually. Deviating from the path to God's Kingdom is not that difficult, making it a constant peril. God's experience with Israel demonstrates that an entire generation died in the wilderness, a stunning witness! A review of the Israelites' conduct shows that, though they initially promised to obey all [God](#) commanded, their [faith](#) wavered over time, and they chose not to go into the Promised Land.

What a powerful warning this is to us, who have our eyes open and take God's Word seriously! One can make a case from the New Testament that many of us will not enter God's Kingdom because, like Israel, we will fritter away our chance. Does not [Jesus](#) warn that only those who endure to the end will be saved ([Matthew 24:13](#))? Does not Peter warn that even the righteous are scarcely saved ([I Peter 4:18](#))? Does not Jesus also warn that the broad way leads to destruction and many take it ([Matthew 7:13](#))?

Rather than frighten us, this should stir us to push on! God has not left us alone. He who releases us from our bondage and sets us on the path to His Kingdom also empowers us to make it. He gives us gifts ([I Corinthians 12:1-11](#)) and access to Him to receive help in time of need ([Romans 5:1-2](#)). This access, through [prayer](#), is without doubt one of the greatest gifts that He can give a human being. He allows us into the very presence of the sovereign Creator and Lord of all, in whom is all [wisdom](#), power, and [love](#). He can do far more for us than we can even think to ask.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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