

Psalms 95:8, "Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness:"

My prayer this morning is that the Lord will bless us with a spirit of humility. In the verse previously cited, David recalls the time the children of Israel were in the wilderness. At that time, the people of God provoked Him to anger. David here in this verse, as well as the Apostle Paul in Hebrews 3:8, exhorts the children of the Lord not to follow in their example. And someone may ask, 'What can I do not to follow in their sinful example of murmuring, complaining and unbelief?' The answer is found in Psalms 95. The Antidote for a Hard Heart is:

- (1) A willingness to praise the Lord (Ps 95:1, sing, make a joyful noise). When we are willing to humble ourselves to sing unto the Lord, it softens our heart to His service. I heard a sister of the Church once say, 'a singing heart is a merry heart.'
- (2) Being thankful for what God has blessed us with by offering ourselves to His service (Psalms 95:2). In the New Testament Church, we do not have the blood sacrifices that were used in the Old Covenant of service, but we are able to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice unto Him (Romans 12:1). A person who is willing to give up all he has to serve another will rarely have a hard heart, so let us "come into His presence" at the House of the Lord to show thanksgiving.
- (3) A continual acknowledgment that He is God and we are not (Psalms 95:6). So often, by our own actions, we declare where God ranks in our life. A continual acknowledgement and confession is not only with our lips, but also with our walk and ways.
- (4) Giving the Lord Glory for what He has made us to be (Psalms 95:7). It is the Lord who has made us His children and not we ourselves. The Apostle Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 1:9 that it is God "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,..."

When we consider what God has done, we should be willing, as Peter says, to "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God,..." Amen!

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