

# Five Warning Sections

## First Warning 2: 1-4

*Pay closer attention  
Drift away  
No escape*

**1** Therefore we must pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. **2** For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, **3** how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him, **4** while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his own will.

## Second Warning 3: 7- 4: 13

*Enter by faith  
Unbelief & Disobedience  
Shall not enter*

**7** Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, when you hear his voice, **8** do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, **9** where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. **10** Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their hearts; they have not known my ways.' **11** As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall never enter my rest.'" **12** Take care, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. **13** But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. **14** For we share in Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end, **15** while it is said, "Today, when you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." **16** Who were they that heard and yet were rebellious? Was it not all those who left Egypt under the leadership of Moses? **17** And with whom was he provoked forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? **18** And to whom did he swear that they should never enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? **19** So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief. **4:1** Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest remains, let us fear lest any of you be judged to have failed to reach it. **2** For good news came to us just as to them; but the message which they heard did not benefit them, because it did not meet with faith in the hearers. **3** For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, "As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall never enter my rest,'" although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. **4** For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way, "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works." **5** And again in this place he said, "They shall never enter my rest." **6** Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, **7** again he sets a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, when you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." **8** For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not speak later of another day. **9** So then, there remains a sabbath rest for the people of God; **10** for whoever enters God's rest also ceases from his labors as God did from his. **11** Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, that no one fall by the same sort of disobedience. **12** For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **13** And before him no creature is hidden, but all are open and laid bare to the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

## Third Warning 5: 11- 6:20

*On to perfection  
Sloth & Apostasy  
No renewal unto repentance*

**11** About this we have much to say which is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. **12** For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need some one to teach you again the first principles of God's word. You need milk, not solid food; **13** for every one who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a child. **14** But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their faculties trained by practice to distinguish good from evil. **6:1** Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, **2** with instruction about ablutions, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. **3** And this we will do if God permits. **4** For it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, **5** and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, **6** if they then commit apostasy, since they crucify the Son of God on their own account and hold him up to contempt. **7** For land which has drunk the rain that often falls upon it, and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. **8** But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed; its end is to be burned. **9** Though we speak thus, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things that belong to salvation. **10** For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love which you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do. **11** And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness in realizing the full assurance of hope until the end, **12** so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. **13** For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, **14** saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." **15** And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. **16** Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. **17** So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, **18** so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. **19** We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, **20** where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

## Fourth Warning 10: 26-39

*Boldly enter  
Wilful sin & drawing back  
No sacrifice remains*

**10:26** For if we sin deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, **27** but a fearful prospect of judgment, and a fury of fire which will consume the adversaries. **28** A man who has violated the law of Moses dies without mercy at the testimony of two or three witnesses. **29** How much worse punishment do you think will be deserved by the man who has spurned the Son of God, and profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and outraged the Spirit of grace? **30** For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." **31** It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. **32** But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, **33** sometimes being publicly exposed to abuse and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. **34** For you had compassion on the prisoners, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. **35** Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. **36** For you have need of endurance, so that you may do the will of God and receive what is promised. **37** "For yet a little while, and the coming one shall come and shall not tarry; **38** but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." **39** But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and keep their souls.

## Fifth Warning 12: 14-29

*Follow peace & holiness  
Fall short of grace  
No place of repentance*

**12:14** Strive for peace with all men, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. **15** See to it that no one fail to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" spring up and cause trouble, and by it the many become defiled; **16** that no one be immoral or irreligious like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. **17** For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears. **18** For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, **19** and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers entreat that no further messages be spoken to them. **20** For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." **21** Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." **22** But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, **23** and to the assembly of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to a judge who is God of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, **24** and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks more graciously than the blood of Abel. **25** See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less shall we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. **26** His voice then shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." **27** This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken, as of what has been made, in order that what cannot be shaken may remain. **28** Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe; **29** for our God is a consuming fire.

*The Epistle To The Hebrews  
RSV*