

Donna's Devotional

The Deceitfulness of Sin

*Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. **Hebrews 3:12-13***

Do you ever wonder how someone who seemed to be living for the Lord 'suddenly' changed and allowed sin to take control? This passage warns us all to be careful not to be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. This means that our hearts can be hardened when we allow sin to deceive us. Webster's Dictionary gives the meaning of *deceive* as "to make a person believe what is not true." A second definition is "to ensnare."

The passage says *Beware*. We need to be on guard. Satan wants us to believe what is not true. He wants to ensnare us. He wants us to be deceived into thinking sin is all right. Once we are ensnared, our hearts will become hardened and we are no longer led by the Holy Spirit.

What can we do? The passage tells the reader to exhort one another. This would indicate that we need to be fellowshiping with others who stand firm on the Word of God and are willing to give and receive admonition in order to avoid the entrapment of sin. Then, we need to pray, study God's Word, and listen to the preaching and teaching of the Bible.