<u>The Letter To The Hebrews</u>
The Word of God and the Throne of Grace
Hebrews 4:11-16

Cling to the Word about Jesus — since He's fully God and won back our destiny	<u>And</u> see Jesus' faithfulness to help you in every tempta-tion	<u>And</u> don't be like Israel who fell into unbelief and didn't enter God's Rest	Avoid unbelief <u>by</u> seeing Jesus as high priest and drawing near to Him
1:1—2:18	3:1-6	3:7—4:13	4:14-16

<u>Why must we strive in order to enter God's Rest</u>? (4:11)

It's not because we are saved by making ourselves good enough to enter God's Rest.
We are only saved by trusting Jesus as Savior, Lord, and Treasure.
But when God saves us He promises to keep us striving against so we do not fall from God.
So we must strive against sin so we do not fall from God (v.11) — and if we don't strive, and do fall, that would show we had not been saved.

<u>How can we avoid being deceived by sin</u>? (4:12-13)

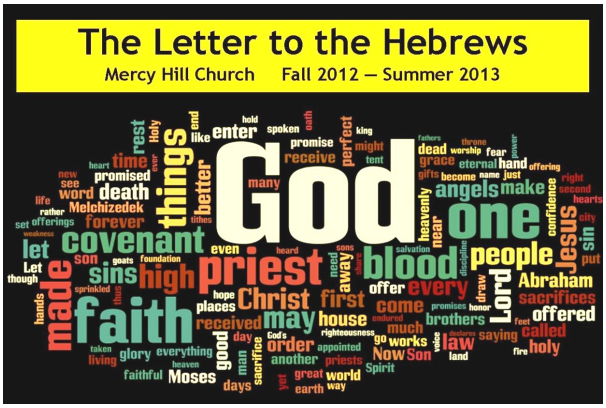
The author of Hebrews has shown the danger of our sin deceiving us (3:13).
But God has given us His Word which will discern the true state of our hearts.
This is crucial because we will all give an account to God (4:13).

<u>What should we do when we see sin rising in our hearts</u>? (4:14-16)

First, hold fast our confession that Jesus is our forgiving and sympathetic high priest.

And second, with confidence draw near to the throne of grace — and we will always receive help to resist sin.

So be encouraged. The Word of God will expose every deception. And the Throne of Grace will enable you to resist sin. And you will surely enter God's Rest.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HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

The author urges us to strive to enter God's Rest. In the past, has the word "strive" had negative connotations? Does it help to see that the Greek word simply means to exert great effort and diligence? Why or why not?

Can you think of a time when you were deceived about sin in your life? How did you get free from that deception?

What are some things we can do to have the Word of God free us from deception and show us the true state of our souls?

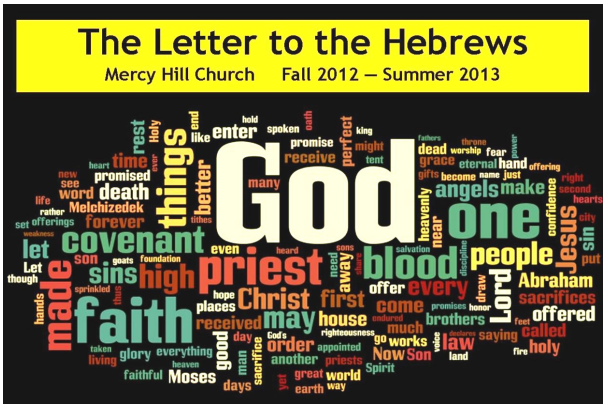
In the past have you fought sin by drawing near to the throne of grace — or by various mental techniques? Why do we tend to use mental techniques instead of coming to the throne of grace?

Why should we come to the throne of grace instead of just using mental techniques?

Have you ever felt discouraged by the difficulty of fighting sin? What difference does it make to see that you have the Word of God which will free you from all deception — and the Throne of Grace which will help you overcome sin?

What questions did Sunday's message raise in your mind?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.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