

WARNING SIGNS OF DEVELOPING HARDNESS / *Romans 11:9-10*

Hardening is like a callus or like the tough bone that bridges a fracture. Spiritual hardening begins with self-sufficiency, security in one's self, and self-satisfaction. The real danger is that at some point, repeated resistance to God will yield an actual inability to respond, which the Bible describes as a hardened heart. Insensitivity indicates advanced hardening. Here are some of the warning signs:

Warning Sign

Reference

Disobeying—Pharaoh's willful disobedience led to his hardened heart.

Exodus 4:21

Having wealth and prosperity—Taking God's blessings for granted can cause us to feel as if they were owed to us.

Deuteronomy 8:6-14

Rebelling and being discontented—Suffering or discomfort can create an attitude that blames God.

Psalms 95:8

Rejecting a deserved rebuke—Rejecting God's gift makes our necks stiff and heart hard.

Proverbs 29:1

Refusing to listen—Refusing to listen leads to a loss of spiritual hearing.

Zechariah 7:11-13

Failing to respond—Listening to God with no intention of obeying produces an inability to obey.

Matthew 13:11-15