

DRIFTING

HEBREWS 2:1

INTRODUCTION:

1. There is a tendency for all Christians to drift away from steadfast commitment to Christ

When its motor stops running, a car slows down and stops

When an airplane's engines stop, the plane loses altitude and eventually crashes

When a person stops rowing, the boat loses momentum and begins drifting

The universal law of life: When we cease making effort to move forward, we inevitably begin to drift backward....in anything.

2. Regression: Let us trace the course of spiritual regression in a Christian's life, in order to see how it can be stopped and even reversed. There are certain symptoms appearing in a person's spiritual growth pattern...let's see....

Beginning traits: (Look at newly-found faith of early Christians..Acts 2:46-47)

Upon conversion there is an initial sense of peace, joy, enthusiasm

Eagerness to learn and grow (seen in the thirst for attending church meetings, seminars, classes, reading books periodicals, etc.)

Quick to volunteer for places of service (class helpers, building projects, provide meals, help people move, visitation, etc.)

Evident even in visible ways: Bring Bibles, sit near front, take notes, linger to visit, ask questions, build spiritual library, attend camps, etc. What else?

Reaching plateau: (Look at what your first love was...Rev. 2:5; Matt. 24:12)

Learn less from sermons, classes. Attend fewer seminars, rallies, camps, etc.

Volunteer for fewer things (burned out, disillusioned, cynical, etc)

Come to meetings late, miss more frequently, sit in back, don't bring Bible, find more things about church to criticize, etc.)

What else?

Proposition: HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO REVERSE THIS CONDITION....

I. RECOGNIZE THE CONDITION

1. Monitor spiritual growth pattern (leveling off? cooling off? tapering off?)
2. Take spiritual inventory, looking for signs of slowing down in spiritual growth and becoming comfortably inactive....
3. Be on constant alert to your situation.....

”Take heed...” I Cor. 10:12; Heb. 3:12; Luke 21:34; I Tim. 4:16a

”Be careful how you live.....” Eph. 5:15-17;

”Remember...” Rev. 2:5; II Pet. 1:9

II. RETURN TO ORIGINAL ATTITUDE

1. First love...Rev. 2:4.
2. First pledge....I Tim. 5:11-13
3. First principles....Heb. 5:12
4. First commitment.....II Cor. 8:5
5. Try to recall the initial attitude of Dedication, Zeal, Sacrifice, etc. What else?

II. REGROUP FOR ACTION.....

1. Reprioritize church attendance....
2. Reschedule spiritual reading versus TV, sports, recreation, etc.
3. Respond to ministry opportunities (teaching, calling, serving, meals, visitation, etc.)

CONCLUSION:

Reserve primary place in your heart for Christ (I Pet. 3:15a)

Renew your mind (not conformed to the world)....Rom. 12:2