

Roadblocks for the Drifter

Drifting: Disbelief: Dullness: Discontentment: Discouragement: Disputing: Delusions: Disobedience: Disorderly: Depression: Despairing:

Hebrews is a message that teaches us that nothing is greater nor superior to cultivating a life of intimacy and growing influence and intensity to the guidance and guardianship of Jesus over our lives.

There's a lot we should do...

A lot we could do...

A lot we want to do...

A lot we can do...

But only one thing we NEED to do...

And that's what God asks us to do.

God's patience — with us — is often misunderstood as His permission — for us.

If we're not careful, before we realize or recognize it, we can drift farther and farther away from God's presence and purpose, by mistaking His patience with us for His permission to us.:

We're going to look at how even the greatest of servants are prone to drifting.

When Elijah saw it... (1 Kings 19:3) he couldn't quit seeing it! It captured his mind and manipulated his heart. How did it happen so fast? God was at work exposing the heart of a drifter.

Elijah didn't go from the fires of Carmel to fretting and the fears that captivated his focus overnight — he had already started drifting before the mountaintop experience. The valley of despair just revealed the folly of his misaligned vision. His attention had drifted from the Lord and now he was in a tailspin. A misplaced focus will make a show. And our missteps will be manifested in the folly of our fretting over what others are saying they can and will do because we have already shifted our focus off of what God had asked us to do.

We must give Him our undivided attention and affection (Hebrews 2).

"Guard your heart, for out of the heart proceeds all the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

The flow of our thought life will dictate our lives.

Who will we listen to and trust? Him or them?

Paul told Timothy that God has not given us a spirit of fear but a spirit of

Power

Love

Sound mind

We shape others in how we:

Deal with problems

Treat people

Handle pride

We have been and ASKED AND GRACED TO DO:

REACH hostiles for Jesus (Preaching)

TEACH disciples about Jesus (Teaching)

EQUIP the body of brethren to serve Jesus (gathering / fellowshiping)

MOBILIZE the missionaries to go with Jesus (partnering/kingdom-minded thinking and living)

Like a bird that wanders from the nest is a man that has left his place proverbs 27:8 ;

I love questions...

I love asking questions...

I love fielding questions from people I get to serve...

I love questions in the word, especially open-ended questions...

Who will declare His times? This question was asked and brought to light on two different occasions in the Scriptures... OPEN ENDED Isaiah 53:8; Acts 8

Adam/Where are you? (Genesis 3:9)

Who told you this? Our conscience condemned them

Cain/Where's your brother/family? Where's everyone? What have you done? (Genesis 4:9-10)Cut them off...

Elijah/What are you doing here? (1 Kings 19)

Hagar/Jonah Where are you going? (Genesis 16:8)

Jonah, is it right for you to be angry? (Jonah 4)(Over what I think is best for you, others, and My glory) Is it right for you to be angry over the thing? (What God prepared, gave, and then took. You pitied the thing and nullified the King) Should I not pity those who don't know? (Yes, Lord uses me in this work...

Short steps of drifting into self-centered living.

The riptides of daily compromise will take the aimless and anchorless drifter, little by little, yet further and further, from the sure docs of the faith, until they wake up in big trouble.

Short steps of drifting. Drifting starts when:

A calloused carnal and hard heart

1. You're undisciplined/sluggish (you ever so slightly began to slip at taking every thought captive and started leaning on your understanding), and little by little you stop acknowledging the importance of ... lazy/neglectful in reaching, teaching, equipping, and mobilizing

2. You lack freshness meaning zeal, awe, and purpose, and start overthinking life but are not caught up in the mission, God's assignments... only reminded of the mission when around the brethren who are on mission, moving toward the direction God had given.

Freshness... fresh song, fresh praise, fresh work, fresh ideas of an eternal message and mission. Creative ways that fit you to bring the message freshly and excitingly to a world that still delights and finds life in lifeless lies.

When our attention is hijacked the freshness of our focus will decline. Freshness in a relationship keeps the relationship vibrant. Looking for ways to express your fresh or active, attention and affectionate love alive. Our lifeline to anything is listening. The lifeline is listening — giving our attention to what is important to us. We tune in to what we are treasuring and trust what we fix our attention upon. Remove the lifeline and we slip away. The quickest way to flow away or float from is to get caught up in a wave or current... someone and something must moor us. Disbelief rubs calluses upon our hearts that make them insensitive to heeding the tenderness of His voice. It rubs

us the wrong way... it starts to blister and over time we don't feel it anymore. We neglect those around us... we stop encouraging others to be all in for Jesus. The evidence of disbelief is when we don't see the importance of heeding nor helping our neighbor live upon every word that proceeds out of His mouth. We neglect to encourage others to look up. The lifeline is hearing and that word is alive, able, and active in us... it's fresh. Sluggish dulled ears don't grow. Stunted, stale, and stagnant growth is evidence of a lack of eagerness to feed on the freshness of God's living tree. You have gotten bored with the fruit. When we feed on the message and put feet to it... fueled with its wisdom to apply and exercise its wisdom in life we grow and become noticeably larger. Bodybuilders fuel the body and feed their muscles by eating and expanding that fuel and their muscles grow.

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3. unsettled, discontented, no vision except what you no longer have. You're living in your past, not in the covering of the glory of the faithfulness of God. You're past feeling... futility consumes your present (Ephesians 4) you revisit missed opportunities.
4. pity parties (you think you don't deserve this, false humility)
5. you bounce back and forth with a sense of temporary comfort when around the anointed (hearing from the leaders, which flatters your flesh temporarily).
6. defending your pride, feelings, and rights and not the promises, filled with yourself, inflated with you (Proverbs 14:14)
7. cynical and complaining, claiming you would — and think it should be done differently than God doing it His way. Deeply dissatisfied with God and how He and His people are doing His work.
8. lawlessness, unrestrained living spiritual adultery, murder, and immoral activity. Feeding the flesh.
9. mislead others to join you in your rebellion. You green-light others to do as they want
10. scorn the rebuke of the wise and turn to the song of fools. Those who try to help you become the enemy.
11. unapproachable, angry, hateful, and fighting for your rights and feelings. Everyone must walk around on eggshells, because of their negative ways. Proverbs 15:15 can't deny your emotions and

bitterness takes root that defiles everything and everyone

12. ungrateful heart that is not affected by the tenderness of the Spirit and sensitivity of the Scripture.

They reaped the seed that they sowed in their heart and mind... even after their convictions and encounters.

Examples:

Jonah

Elijah

Amnon

Saul

Older brother to the prodigal

#nestingwithjesus #1kings #1kings18 #1kings19 #genesis4 #genesis16 #genesis3 #jonah1 #jonah2
#jonah4 #hebrews #fools #pride #foolscanhelpthemselves #dontbeafool #ahab
#fessupwiseupgrowup #everdaylifewithpastornick #alldayeverydaywithJesus
#seeingtheextraordinaryintheordinary #preachingtomyself #elijah #effectiveleadership
#mark8and34thru38 #nodisclaimerneeded #Adam #Cain #Elijah #Hagar #Jonah #inyourgoing
#youarealreadygoing #fishersofmen #makedisciples #reachingthehostiles #sent
#reachingteachingequippingmobilizing #faith #news #hearingisseeinginthekingdom #hearing
#seeingagreeingacting