

CURRENTS THAT CAUSE DRIFTING

By Keith Greer

“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.” {Hebrews 2:1-3} How can we avoid currents that cause drifting to occur? Let me suggest some **currents** we need to avoid:

Old Habits. “That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.” {Ephesians 4:22-24} When one comes to Christ, he must put off “the old man” and put on “the new man.” We’ve developed many habits, and we need to break the bad ones. Sometimes when we get into a tight spot, we can be tempted to go back to the old paths we left behind. Our old habits can lead us to drift away from the shores of safety we have in Christ Jesus. Fight to keep the old man in a crucified state!

Associates. “Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits. Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.” {1 Corinthians 15:33,34} A friend can be a good thing if he/she does not influence us to do things that are contrary to God’s commands. Sometimes, one must choose between living a godly life and those friends who seek to pull us back into the paths of sin. Influence is a powerful weapon, and it can be either encouraging or discouraging. What about you? Who has the greater influence in the relationships you have with those in the world?

Worldliness. “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” {1 John 2:15-17} The world’s pull is real and very strong. We must choose who—God or the world—will have control over our lives. Jesus spoke correctly when He said man cannot “serve two masters.” {Matthew 6:24} Yes, sin is fun and full of temporary pleasures, but those in the world have different goals. They march to the beat of a different drum and are all wrapped up in what pleases them—not what pleases God. When God’s people play a tug-of-war game, we lose and the world wins EVERY time!

Weariness. “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” {Galatians 6:9} Only God has the real answer to the problem of weariness. At times, this life becomes difficult, and we lose sight of the reason for our battles and struggles. We strive for an imperishable crown that waits at the end of life’s troublesome road. There is a reward for those who faithfully finish the race—not for those who quit!

Doubt. “But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.” {Romans 14:23} Doubts can come from many different sources. But true strength comes from the Lord. {Philippians 4:13} He will provide an escape from every temptation that faces you. {1 Corinthians 10:13} You can say no to the devil and resist him. {James 4:6,7} ***