THE DANGER OF SLOWLY DRIFTING AWAY

Jonathan Burns

Most Christians do not wake up one morning and suddenly decide to leave the Lord. Spiritual decline usually happens slowly. A missed prayer here, neglected Bible study there, worship becoming less important, sin becoming easier to excuse, and before long the heart has drifted farther than expected.

Hebrews 2:1 warns, "Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away." Drifting is dangerous because it can happen quietly. A boat does not have to be powered away from the shore to become distant. It only has to stop being anchored.

That is why Christians must guard the heart. Hebrews 3:12-13 says, "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God." The passage then tells us to "exhort one another daily." We need God's Word, faithful worship, prayer, and the encouragement of other Christians to keep our hearts strong.

The church at Ephesus had worked, endured, and rejected false teachers, yet Jesus said, "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love" (Revelation 2:4). His instruction was clear: "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works" (Revelation 2:5). Spiritual drifting can be stopped, but it must first be recognized.

Ask yourself: Is prayer becoming less important? Is Bible study becoming less frequent? Is worship easier to miss? Are sins being tolerated that once troubled you? Has your love for Christ grown weaker? **Do not ignore the warning signs.** Remember where you were. Repent where necessary. Return to faithful habits. Stay close to Christ, because drifting away rarely begins with a major decision. It often begins with small compromises that slowly move the heart away from God.

- Findlay Church of Christ, Sparta, TN -

Take some of your spare moments and make them into prayer moments.

Vol. 9 October 25, 2026 No. 42

News & Notes

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Willard Burdine will have an out-patient medical procedure **Wednesday, Oct. 28th** at UPMC.

TIME CHANGE: Next Saturday, Oct. 31st, set your clocks **BACK 1 hour** before retiring for the night.

COVERED DISH DINNER: Next Sunday, Nov. 1st about Noon at the Fellowship Building, followed by our **early afternoon service at 2:00 p.m.**

GOSPEL MEETING: Nov. 1-5, Steelton Church of Christ with Rod Goddard. Details on the Bulletin Board.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Saturday, Nov. 7th, 8:00 a.m. at Sweet Rock in Newell.

LADIES INSPIRATION DAY: Saturday, Nov. 7th, 8:45 a.m.-Noon (Lunch provided) at the Hanoverton Church of Christ. Topic: "Leave Your Baggage". Speaker: Danielle Burch. Details on the Bulletin Board.

MEN'S DAY: Saturday, Nov. 7th, 9:30 a.m. to Noon. (Lunch to follow) at Lubeck Church of Christ. Details on the Bulletin Board.

PANTRY: Canned fruit.

REMEMBER THE SICK & SHUT-INS: ***Weirton Medical:*** Paula Clutter (Room 780). ***At Home:*** Noni Scadden, Donna Stevens, Scharlotte Jones. ***FOX:*** Patty McCullough, Marlene Evans, Mary Johnson. ***SERRA, Weirton:*** Jean Haught (Skip's mother). **ELSEWHERE:** Kita Miller, Rebecca Henderson, Rea Sellers, David Wilson, Nancy Hadley, Sue Baumgardner, Brenda Harris, Christy Claypool, Jackie Brown, Brett Thompson, Herman McHan.

BIBLE MEDITATIONS: Monday-Friday 12:30-12:35 p.m.
On WOHI 1490 AM and 103.9 FM