

The Dangers of Drifting

1. Hebrews 2:1 warns us: *We must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it.* It's good to assess and review our progress in life. It's easy to lose our passion and to just go with the flow. The Church at Ephesus had lost their first love for God. What about your own personal faith? Has it become stronger or weaker over recent months? How can you tell?
2. A man fell off a pier and was drowning. Nearby a man who was an excellent swimmer sunned himself in a deck chair. He heard the man's cries and could have saved him but chose not to. Apathy a good indicator that we have drifted away from our calling? What are some of the ways in which you have become apathetic?
3. We are all exposed to dangerous currents in our lives. Drifting requires no effort - we just relax & take it easy. Even churches can gradually drift away from the Scriptures & into error. Discuss
4. Faithfulness to God is like paddling against the current - it requires daily effort and obedience. The power of the current increases as we move downstream... When we hear the noise of the waterfall it's often too late to prevent tragedy. *Have you been caught up in a tragic situation that you knew was coming but were unable to do anything about it?*
5. We drift toward rocks when we go through life saying *'it's not my fault'* rather than taking responsibility for our actions. We have feelings that we spend a lot of time trying to avoid, like *'the fear of failure'* the *'fear of conflict'*, the *'fear of rejection'*, the *'fear of being humiliated'*. These stop us from stepping forward in faith and keep us powerless. Does anyone have a difficulty in any of these areas?
6. Ecclesiastes 4:12 *A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.* I've always sought people in my life to keep me accountable who will challenge, encourage and motivate me. Who would notice if you were drifting in the wrong direction? Are you accountable to anyone? What actions can you take to prevent you from drifting?

7. Philippians 3:13-14. Watch out for the undercurrents; many tides that can sweep us away. Consumerism is the pressure to buy more & bigger. Are you influenced by this? What are some of the other undercurrents that you are battling with?
8. Pray for each other, that you will regain your first love for the Lord and that faith rather than fear and apathy will keep you moving forward toward your heavenly goal.