

Lest We **DRIIFT** Away

Hebrews 2:1



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Things We Should Know About Drifting:

- **Requires NO EFFORT -**
- **Not Easily Detectable In The Beginning -**
- **Never Drift Upstream -**
- **The Speed Downstream Increases -**
- **WILL TAKE US FAR AWAY**
- **Harmful to others!**

Hebrews 2:1–4 (NKJV)

¹ Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. ² For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, ³ 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*, ⁴ God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

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Why The Warning?

- **A Real Danger** – 3:12-14; 6:4-6; 10:26,27; Gal. 5:1-4; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; 2 Pet. 2:20-22
- **The Dignity of Christ** – 2:2-4; 1:1-4; 10:28,29; 2 John 9,10
- **Without Excuse** – 2:3,4; Rom. 1:20; John 15:22; Eph 3:3-5; Col. 1:5,23
- **The Consequences** – Being lost, Eternal punishment - 2:2,3; 10:28,29; Rev. 20:15; 21:8; 2 Thes. 1:7-9



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Warning Signs of Drifting

- Diminished **HUNGER** for God's word ...
- Diminished **ZEAL** for God's work ...
- Diminished **DESIRE** to be with God's people -
- Diminished **CONCERN** for what is true/right -
- Increasing Thrill Over Things of The World -

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■ **PASSING of TIME**

- ▶ Our Out-of-Control Schedules — Eph 5:16
- ▶ Our schedules reflect what is most important to us - When God ceases to be at the center of our scheduling - be assured - we are drifting away from Him.
- ▶ Bad habits are formed.

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■ **PASSING of TIME**

- ▶ We can grow weary of doing good as time passes – Gal. 6:9
- ▶ We can begin to rest on past accomplishments – Phil 3:13,14
- ▶ We can become complacent and leave our first love – Rev 2:4; 3:14-22; Eph 1:15, 16

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■ DISSATISFACTION

- ▶ The danger of becoming dissatisfied with the “Old Path” – Jer. 6:16; Hos. 4:12
- ▶ The desire to be LIKED by denominations & the world — 1 Sam. 8:5; Gal 5:11
- ▶ The dangerous push for change – 2 Cor. 11:3; Acts 17:21; Jer. 2:13

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■ DISSATISFACTION

- ▶ It is **EXTREMELY DANGEROUS** to allow our faith to be navigated by our feelings!!! — Prov. 14:12; Jer. 17:19
- ▶ Many have left the Lord's church because of how they "felt" — 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Gal. 4:16;

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■ DISTRACTIONS

- ▶ The danger of “practice” without focus & thought – John 4:24; 1 Cor. 14:13ff
- ▶ The world’s allurements can be VERY distracting — 1 John 2:15-17
- ▶ The NEED for focus — Mat. 6:19-24; Col. 3:1-3

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■ DISTRACTIONS

- ▶ Constant temptation – 1 Peter 2:11; Gal. 5:17
- ▶ Materialism - here and now over the future – Mat 6:19-33; Luke 8:14
- ▶ Our daily concerns – There are always things popping up seeking our attention — Phil. 4:6

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■ SOCIAL PRESSURE

- ▶ We are bombarded daily through TV, radio, the internet and our daily contacts with worldliness, secular humanism & false religions – 2 Cor. 2:11
- ▶ The danger of “a little leaven” – Mat. 16:6,12; 1 Cor. 5:6; 15:33; 2 Tim. 2:17

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■ SOCIAL PRESSURE

- ▶ There is a **CONSTANT** push & pull from the world to think, speak & act like the world — Gal. 4:17; 1 Pet. 4:4; 2 Tim. 3:12; Rom. 12:1,2
- ▶ We **MUST** resist the temptation to compromise **AT ALL** — Luke 16:10; Mat 23:23

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■ **DISCOURAGEMENT**

- ▶ The things already mentioned can all contribute to us becoming discouraged — (Time - How we feel - distractions - social pressures - Gal. 6:9) -
- ▶ We CANNOT allow the discouragement of today destroy our zeal.

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■ **DISCOURAGEMENT**

Hebrews 12:3 (NKJV)

³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

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■ **DISCOURAGEMENT**

Hebrews 12:12–13 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

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■ **DISCOURAGEMENT**

Hebrews 12:14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: ¹⁵ looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

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■ **ABUNDANCE**

- ▶ Our COMFORT level produced by affluence can be a VERY DANGEROUS CURRENT! — 1 Tim 6:10
- ▶ Satan does not mind our prosperity. He knows our prosperity & abundance can easily lure us away from our Creator — Mat 19:22-26

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How To Prevent Drifting



- ▶ Get anchored by “**giving the more earnest heed to the things we have heard**” – 2:1,2; Prov. 4:20-22; Ps. 119:97-104; Col. 1:23; Mat. 7:24-29
- ▶ Stay anchored by holding FAST to God’s word — Heb. 6:18,19; Eph. 4:14-15; Col. 2:6,7;
- ▶ Remain anchored by looking to Jesus, humbly submitting to Him — Heb. 12:1-29

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How To Prevent Drifting



- ▶ GIVE ALL DILIGENCE to GROW SPIRITUALLY — 2 Pet. 1:3-11
- ▶ GIVE ALL DILIGENCE to REMAIN AT PEACE WITH GOD — 2 Pet. 3:10-18
- ▶ TAKE UP & PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD — Eph. 6:10-18

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How To Prevent Drifting



- ▶ **Search the scriptures daily**
– Acts 17:11
- ▶ **Watch & Pray** –
Mark 14:38; 1 Cor. 16:13;
- ▶ **Edify one another** –
Heb. 3:13; 10:24,25
- ▶ **Be sober and vigilant** –
1 Pet. 5:8; Titus 2:14
- ▶ **Keep pressing forward** –
Phili 3:12-16

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How To RESPOND To Drifting

DANGEROUS CURRENTS

- **OUR TIME**
- **DISSATISFACTION**
- **DISTRACTIONS**
- **SOCIAL PRESSURE**
- **DISCOURAGEMENT**
- **ABUNDANCE**

RESPONSES

- **USE TIME WISELY**
- **CONTENTMENT**
- **FOCUS**
- **FEAR GOD**
- **FAITH/LOVE/HOPE**
- **SPIRITUAL WEALTH**

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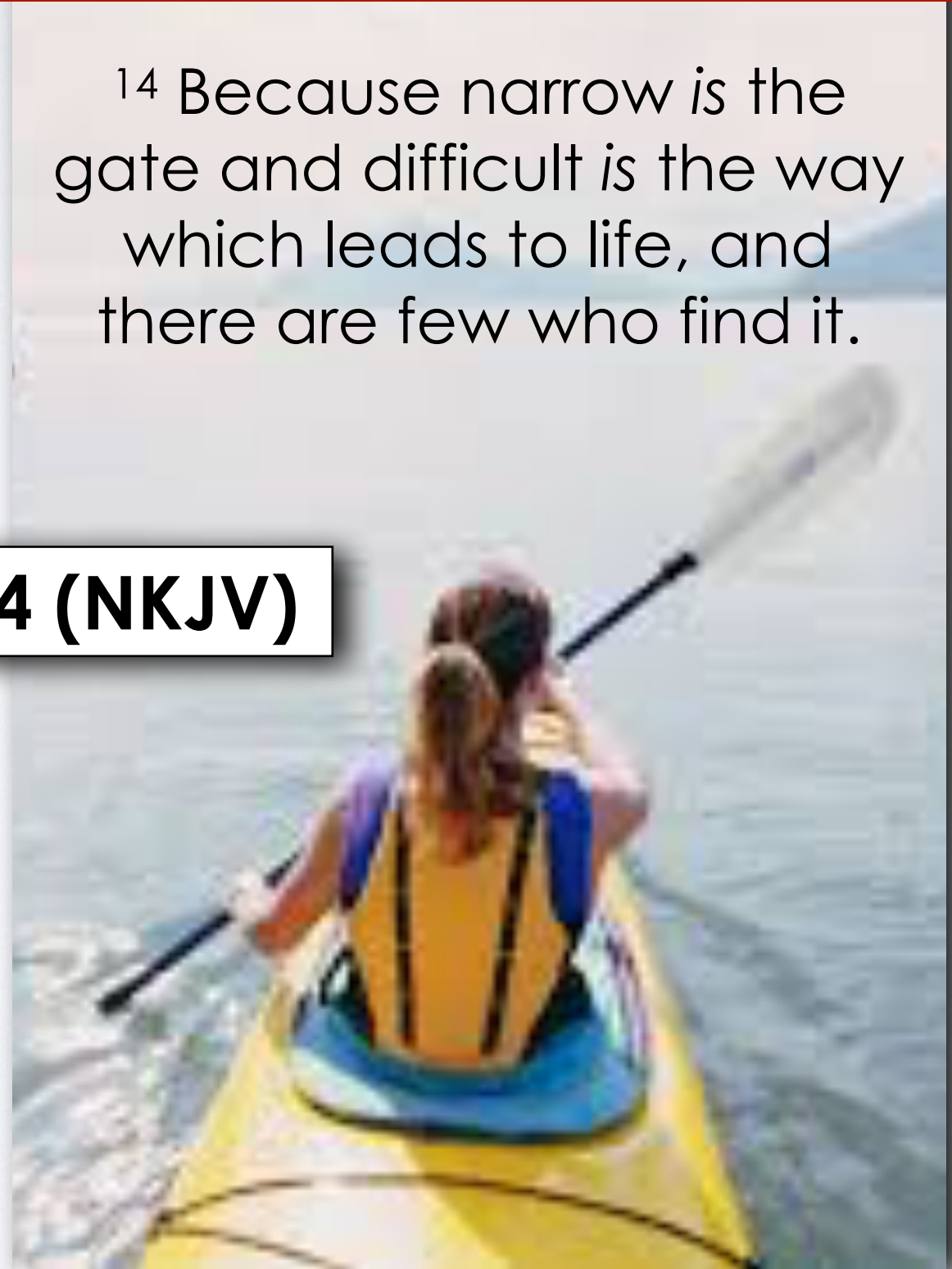
GOING DOWNSTREAM IS EASY

REMAINING FAITHFUL TAKES EFFORT

Matthew 7:13–14 (NKJV)

¹³ “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.



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Are we just DRIFTING ALONG?
or are we holding fast to Christ?
Are we diligent in His service?



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Proverbs 4:1–9 (NKJV)

¹ Hear, *my* children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding; ² For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law. ³ When I was my father's son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother, ⁴ He also taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live.

Proverbs 4:1–9 (NKJV)

⁵ Get wisdom! Get understanding!
Do not forget, nor turn away from
the words of my mouth. ⁶ Do not
forsake her, and she will preserve
you; Love her, and she will keep
you. ⁷ Wisdom *is* the principal thing;
Therefore get wisdom. And in all
your getting, get understanding.

Proverbs 4:1–9 (NKJV)

⁸ Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her. ⁹ She will place on your head an ornament of grace; A crown of glory she will deliver to you.”