

A person in a small boat on a blue sea under a starry night sky. The person is wearing a brown coat and holding a large, light-colored umbrella. The sea is a deep blue with gentle ripples. The sky is a lighter blue with many small white stars. The text 'LEST WE DRIIFT AWAY FROM GOD' is written in large, blue, serif capital letters across the middle of the image.

LEST WE DRIIFT AWAY FROM GOD

Hebrews 2:1-4

LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD

Things We Should Know About Drifting:



- Requires NO EFFORT -
- Not Easily Detectible 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?

LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD

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)



LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD

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.

LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD

Many Dangerous Currents?



■ **PASSING of TIME**

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

LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD

Many Dangerous Currents?



■ **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.

LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD

Many Dangerous Currents?



■ 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)

LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD

Many Dangerous Currents?



■ 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)

LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD

Many Dangerous Currents?



■ 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)

LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD

Many Dangerous Currents?



■ 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 (Phili. 4:6)

LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD

Many Dangerous Currents?



■ 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; Rev. 2,3)

LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD

Many Dangerous Currents?



■ 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)

LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD

Many Dangerous Currents?



■ 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.

LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD

Many Dangerous Currents?

■ 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.



WARNING

LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD

Many Dangerous Currents?



■ 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 *dis*located, but rather be healed.

LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD

Many Dangerous Currents?



■ 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;

LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD

Many Dangerous Currents?



■ 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)

LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD

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)

LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD

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)

LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD

How To Prevent Drifting



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

LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD

How To RESPOND To Drifting

- OUR TIME

- DISSATISFACTION

- DISTRACTIONS

- SOCIAL PRESSURE

- DISCOURAGEMENT

- WEAKNESS

- ABUNDANCE

**OVERCOME
CAUSES BY
FORTIFYING
OUR
HEARTS!**

- USE TIME WISELY

- CONTENTMENT

- FOCUS

- FEAR GOD

- FAITH/LOVE/HOPE

- STRENGTH

- SPIRITUAL WEALTH

LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD

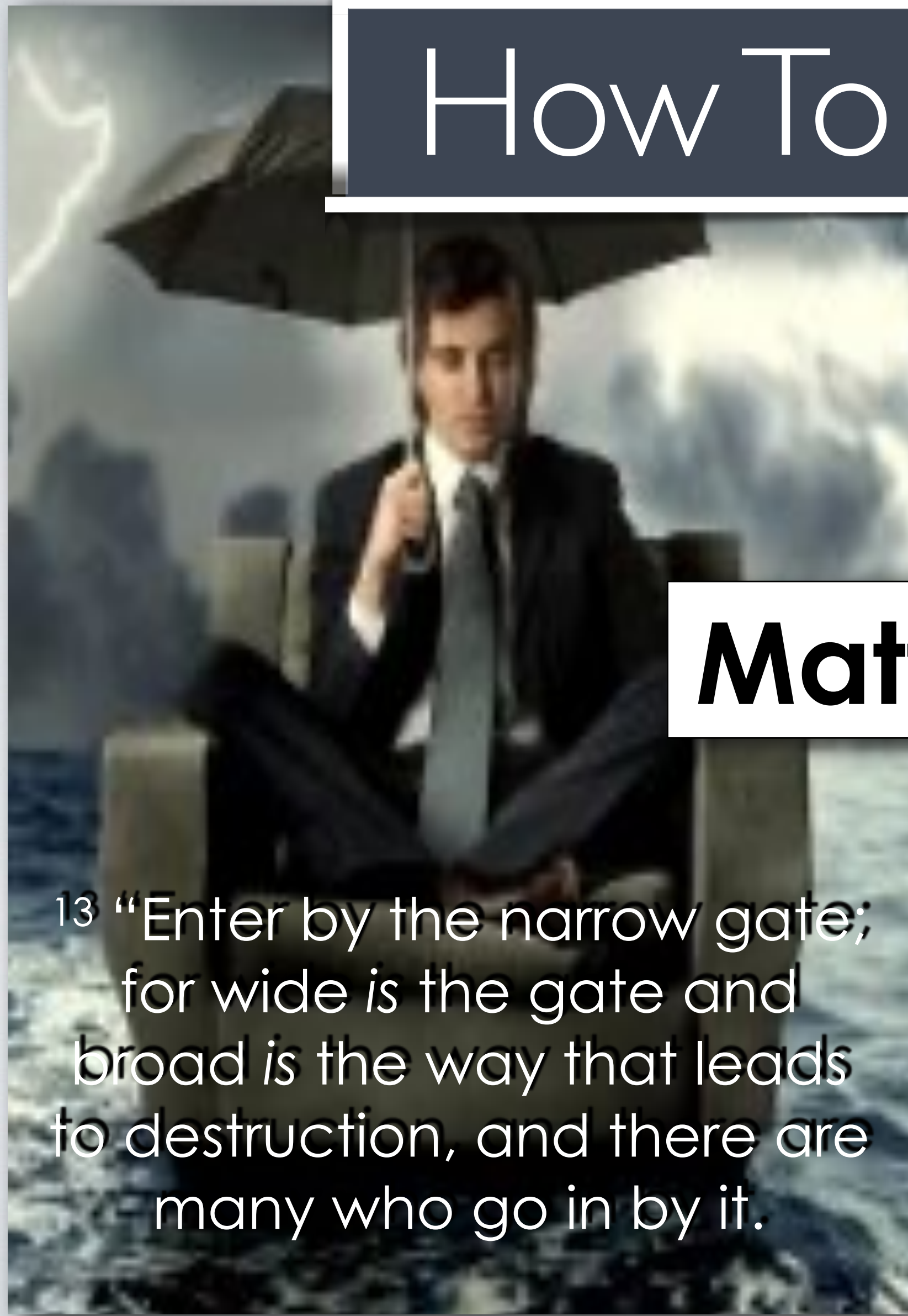
How To RESPOND To Drifting

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

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.

HEAR (Rom. 10:17)
BELIEVE (John 8:24)
CONFESS (Rom. 10:9)
REPENT (Acts 17:30)
BE BAPTIZED (Acts 2:38)
ENDURE (Heb. 3:14)



**DO WE KNOW MORE TODAY
THAN 5 YEARS AGO?**

LEST WE DRIIFT AWAY FROM GOD



**ARE WE MORE INVOLVED
TODAY THAN 5 YEARS AGO?**

LEST WE DRIIFT AWAY FROM GOD



Hebrews 2:1-4

**ARE WE BETTER EQUIPPED
TODAY THAN 5 YEARS AGO?**

LEST WE DRIIFT AWAY FROM GOD



Hebrews 2:1-4

**IS OUR FAITH, HOPE & LOVE
STRONGER TODAY THAN 5
YEARS AGO?**

LEST WE DRIIFT AWAY FROM GOD



Hebrews 2:1-4

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

LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD



Hebrews 2:1-4