

August 13th, 2023
Wrecked: Week 1

Question: Was there a time in your life that you were honestly closer to God than you are today? But then somewhere along the way, THAT PASSION STARTED TO DRIFT. The fire died down.

Today, I want to give you 5 Easy Steps in: How to LOSE YOUR FAITH, How to drift from God, and ultimately WRECK your LIFE.

The bad news is, it's rather easy to drift from God.

The Bible declares him to be your spiritual enemy, the great deceiver, the father of lies. The truth is, Satan wants to destroy your faith; it is his specialty.

When God created Adam and Eve, and the Devil showed up in the form of a serpent, what was the first thing he said, basically, to Adam and Eve? He said, "Did God really say Not to....?"

In other words, he wanted to bring questioning and to weaken the authority of God, because Satan loves to destroy our faith.

2 Corinthians 11:3 (NIV)

But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

Matthew 13: Jesus told a parable; it is called the Parable of the Sower. This is what Jesus said. "A sower went out to sow some seeds, and as he was throwing..."

- 1.) Some fell on a Pathway and the birds came along and took the seed and it never took root.
- 2.) Some of the seeds fell along Rocky ground and they grew up quickly; but, because of the bedrock, the roots couldn't go down deep enough and so the sun scorched the plant before it ever had a chance.
- 3.) Then some seed fell along a place where there were Thorns, and they choked the life out of the plant before it could really grow and flourish.
- 4.) But, there was a fourth group. Some seed fell on Good Soil and because it fell on good soil, it produced a harvest of 30, 60, and even 100 fold!

Why am I telling you this? Because the SOIL in the story is your HEART, and each of us are in ONE of those scenarios.

Then He immediately gives meaning to the Parable.

- 1.) *Matthew 13:19 (NIV)*: "When anyone hears the message about the Kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and he snatches away what was sown in their heart;. This is the seed sown along the path."

Sadly, this is some of you; because today I'm like the sower. I am taking God's Word and I'm doing this, I am taking God's Word and I am throwing it out there.

2.) Then He said, "There is a group who received the seed, but it fell on ground where under the surface there was this huge rock ledge. And people received the Word with JOY, but the roots couldn't get established and the SUN came out and burned out the tender shoot."

Some of you have said, "I'm gonna go for God, I'm gonna start reading my Bible, I'm gonna listen to Christian music!" But, the reality is, something is going to happen and a week or so from now, you're going to give up.

3.) The third group may represent the largest percentage of people here today.

Matthew 13:22 (NIV): "The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful."

These very attractive distractions, choke the spiritual life right out of you.

4.) But some of the seed fell on good soil! It's the man who hears the Word and understands it, applies it, and he produces a crop yielding 30 times, 60 times, and even 100 times what was sown!

"What is the big deal with that?"

In other words, God can do more spiritually in you than you ever imagined. Not only will you be changed, but the work of the Spirit is going to be so profound in your life that those around you are going to see it, feel it, experience it.

There will be generations to come, generations who have not yet been born that will be different because the seed of God has taken root in your heart, and there is going to be a tremendous return.

Hebrews 2:1 (NIV)

We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.

So today I want to give you 5 specific steps to help you DRIFT FROM GOD.

Step 1: You must NEGLECT your time with God.

Psalms 63:1 (NIV)

You, God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you, I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you.

Let me tell you specifically how to neglect your time with God.

- Do not seek Him through HIS WORD!
- Don't WORSHIP.
- DON'T GET INVOLVED in church.
- DON'T PRAY!

Step 2: If you don't like your circumstances, blame God!

Nobody would ever do this...

Proverbs 3:5 (NIV)

Trust in the Lord with ALL your heart.

You can trust Him a little, but NOT with your whole heart!

Step 3: I strongly encourage you to hang around Bad Influences.

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)

"Bad company corrupts good character."

Don't hang around strong Christians, they can be so annoying. And especially, don't hang around anyone who loves you enough to confront you when you are wrong. That can be so annoying!

Step 4: As often as possible, give in to Temptation.

James 1:14-15 (NIV)

But each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Step 5: Love this world MORE than you love GOD.

1 John 2:15 (NIV)

"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."

All you have to do is fall more in love with the temporary pleasures of this world and then scripture promises you, the love of God cannot live within you."

Was there a time in your life that you were honestly closer to God than you are today?

Question: So where did today's SEED fall?