



Life Principles Notes™

The Danger of Drifting

Part 1: Indications of the Wrong Direction

Summary:

When I was 14, my best friend and I were walking alongside the river in my hometown, and we saw a small, abandoned boat. We decided to take a ride. We made our way down the river, but after we'd been drifting a while, we suddenly heard a roar—it was the water going over the dam. We grabbed the oars and started paddling as hard as we could! Finally, we got close enough to the shore to jump out and get to safety. However, we couldn't save the boat—it went straight over the dam. What

started out as pure fun almost ended up in disaster.

That's exactly what happens to many people. They drift—not paying any attention to how fast they're moving or where they're going. Then, all of a sudden, everything changes. If that's true in your life, you're headed for a disaster.

Key Passage: [Hebrews 2:1-3](#)

Supporting Scripture: *Psalm 119:9-11; Hebrews 10:24-25; Luke 6:38; 1 John 2:15-17.*

Scriptural Principles:

1 Are we going to float or paddle?

We cannot afford to drift in the society we live in. That's because there's a current all around us—it's the destructive philosophy of life, which is completely anti-Christian. Therefore, we must decide whether we're going to float or start paddling. Are we going to have direction and purpose in life? Or are we going to let this world take us down its destructive path? Many people don't want to think about tomorrow or the consequences of life—they like to take it easy. As long as they're floating, they think they don't need God. Yet, when we go with the current, we're going to be disappointed, and ultimately destroyed. We need a rudder and a sense of direction. We need God in our life.

2 Can we escape if we neglect our salvation?

Of course, many people know they need God because they go to church and hear the truth. However, just hearing the truth won't help—we must apply it. Hebrews 2:3 asks, "How will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" Of course, our salvation is great because (1) it's the gift of God through Christ; (2) the power of the gospel is completely sufficient to forgive every sin; and (3) all of us can be saved. However, we cannot escape the consequences of drifting away from God—only He can save us. Anything else will hasten our path to destruction.

3 We know we're drifting when we lose interest in God's Word.

So, how can we know when we're drifting? There are some signs, and the first one is that our interest in God's Word decreases. However, the Bible is our instruction book—so if we want to know how to live, we must look to God's Word (see Psalm 119:9-11). We must meditate upon it or every area of our life will be affected.

4 We know we're drifting when we neglect to pray.

The second indication that we're drifting is that we lose our passion for prayer and stop crying out to God. The problem comes when things are going so well that we don't feel the need to pray. However, that's the time that we probably need to pray the most because we drop our guard and Satan attacks. Prayer is the only way we communicate with God—the navigator of our life. Without Him, we can't fight the current or steer our way through the narrow moral, financial, relational, and spiritual channels of our life—and calamity is the result.

5 We know we're drifting when we lose interest in church.

The third indication that we're drifting is that we stop meeting together with other Christians at church and other fellowship and ministry opportunities. We're to worship, sing, preach the gospel, fellowship, pray together, and encourage one another—and there's no excuse for missing out on that (see Hebrews 10:24-25). If you don't belong to a church, ask God where you should go. Because anytime we're under the preaching and teaching of God's Word, God is directing us—He stops us from drifting.

6 We know we're drifting when we don't give our time or money.

The fourth indication that we're drifting is that we stop giving our money and time. Now, some people will say, "I can't afford to give my tithe or spend time serving God." However, you can't afford not to do it. You see, when we are faithful to do as God says, He makes the remainder much more valuable to us—He multiplies what we give to Him (see Luke 6:38). However, when we drift in the stewardship of our time and money, it affects everything in our life negatively.

7 We know we're drifting when we don't share Jesus with anyone.

The fifth indication that we're drifting is that we never talk to anybody about Jesus. We say we're so busy, that we just don't have time to talk to others about the Lord. However, what we're really saying is that we don't want to paddle against the current of the culture, which we know is anti-Christian. It's just not politically correct to talk to people about Jesus. Yet, understand, we have no obligation before God to be politically correct. Rather, we have a divine obligation to be biblically correct—because if we're biblically correct, we'll change people's lives and impact the society.

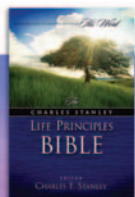
8 We know we're drifting when we no longer feel close to God.

The sixth indication that we're drifting is that we don't feel as close to God as we used to. Of course, it's because we're not reading His Word, praying, going to church, giving, or witnessing anymore. What we're losing is the most intimate relationship that we could ever have. Our relationship with God is deeper than anything else, and only God knows how to satisfy us. Why do we forsake that relationship? We do so because of the influence of other people and the lure of the world's ways. However, when we do that, we miss God's best for our life. And if we want His best, we must be willing to fight against the current.

Conclusion:

Do you want God's best for your life? More than likely, you'd say, "Yes!" Understand that there's a price to enjoying God's best. What are you willing to do to engage in God's divine, loving plan? It starts by analyzing why you're drifting. Ultimately, you drift because you've chosen to.

Yet, you don't have to. Don't drift so



Benefit from the truths that have shaped Dr. Stanley's life and ministry with the *Life Principles Bible*. Visit *Shop InTouch* at www.intouch.org.

far that God must discipline you to bring you back. Don't float into death and eternal separation from God.

Of course, eternal separation only occurs if you've never asked Jesus Christ to be your Savior. Change your course today by confessing your sin and asking Jesus into your life. You can trust Him to get you back on track, and be certain that with Christ, you'll experience the most wonderful voyage you could ever imagine. 🙏

Contact us:
1-800-789-1473

Customer Care
8:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m. | M-F (EST)