



I want to address something that I think is a major problem in the church today. Look with me at Hebrews 2:1-3; we see a principle that we need to understand. Hebrews 2:1-3 says, “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received its just reward, 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...” The writer of Hebrews, inspired by the Holy Spirit, gives us some very important counsel. We are to GIVE THE MORE EARNEST HEED to the *things that we know* lest we let them SLIP and WE DRIFT AWAY!

I have never met anyone that *purposed* to go astray or walk away from their faith, but instead they went adrift and eventually went astray or got off the path of faith. This happens because they began to neglect the things in which they had been instructed and began to adopt a casual attitude about the things of God. I am convinced that it isn't always the things that we don't know that hurt our lives the most but the things we know and aren't doing.

The picture that is painted here is one of a boat that isn't anchored properly and just begins to “drift” off course. We don't go far off at first, but even a little bit at first will cause us to be considerable off course over time. When we do that, we end up missing our destination or goal. Paul said he would “press” on toward the mark or goal. He would stay focused or diligent.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 3:1 that to keep writing the same things over and over again is not tedious for him but is safe for the believers. Peter said that he would always remind them of these things even though they knew them (2 Peter 1:12-15 and 3:1). We should always remember that faith comes by hearing and hearing and hearing again. Faith is not a life of passively doing nothing but a life of diligently doing the things that faith does.

Faith always has a demonstration, and we need to keep ourselves constantly stirred up on the Word of Faith (1 Timothy 4:6)

People who begin to drift away come up with their own doctrines such as “I don't think that you have to go to church, read or pray to be a Christian”. This is the spirit of the last days, and we see it in several passages. One of which is 2 Timothy 3. I believe that, especially as we prosper, we need to (1) remember that it is God that has given us power to get wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18) and (2) continue to serve Him and be thankful. Many have said that it will never happen to me, and yet I have seen it happen. The Bible says in I Corinthians 10:12 that when we think we stand (that we can never fall or stumble) we should *take heed* – that means to be more diligent and aware. Peter again says that we should always be aware and vigilant because our adversary is always seeking an opportunity to devour, destroy, and deceive. The devil deceives us by getting us to accept the belief that things aren't important or that we are “ok” the way we are living. We need to guard ourselves from such thoughts. I am not trying to promote fear but to help us to see the need for diligence and faithfulness in the day we live in, so we do not let the things we know “slip away” and cause us to “drift away”.

It isn't always the things that we don't know that hurt our lives the most but the things that we know and aren't doing.

Let's take a look now at some things we need to take heed to and give diligence to.

I Timothy 4:12-16 directs us to pay attention to some very key elements. It says, “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophesy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”

First in verse 13, we are told to give attention to Bible reading. The Word of God is the compass for our lives and God's plan for our success. Proverbs 4 says that the Word is life and health to all who find it. We need to keep His Word hidden in our hearts, according to Psalm 119, so that we might not sin. The writer of Hebrews says in 4:12 that the Word of God is alive and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword and

separates emotional things from spiritual things. We need to make the Word of God a regular part of our lives. It will always bring us back on course and keep us there.

Paul then says to “meditate” on these things. We need to constantly take heed to our thoughts. I believe that this is a big item especially in the day we live in. Activity starts with our mind, good or bad. There are many scriptures that deal with the importance of the mind. The battle for the mind is one of the most severe battles we face. The devil is good at introducing thoughts into our minds so that he can control the direction that our lives take.

Romans 12:1-2, Joshua 1:8, and, of course, Psalm 1:1-3 all speak to the importance of our thought life. We need to put the Word in and then meditate or think on it so that we may do it and make our way prosperous and have good success.

Along with meditating the Word and confessing the Word, we need take heed to pray. Jesus said in Luke 18 that men ought to pray always so they would not faint or grow weak. This is repeated in other scriptures like Romans 12:2, I Peter 4:7, Philippians 4:6 and of course, Ephesians 6:18. Jesus said, “pray that you enter not into temptation”. I believe that prayer in the spirit and in our understanding or our own language is essential. Prayer is conversation with God. God will adjust our attitude and give us strength and power.

The number one call of the believer is to “be with Him” (Mk 3:13-14, Mt 10:1, I Cor 1:9). Colossians 4:1 says that prayer will cause us to be “alert”, and I have found that indeed the Holy Spirit will show us things to come that we may be prepared for them.

Next, we should take heed to ourselves according to verse 16 in I Timothy 4. We should remain focused in faith and not let circumstances direct or dictate the direction of our lives. When we drift with circumstances, we will end up being double-minded and unstable and then either blame God or others (James 1:6).

Do not let circumstances direct or dictate the direction of your life.

Finally, I believe another thing that we need to be diligent about is remaining THANKFUL. Colossians 3:15, Ephesians 5:20, and I Thessalonians 5:18 all address this. When we are thankful, we do not get critical and will always place a high value on the things that we are thankful for. We must remain thankful for our pastors, leaders, churches, mates, and things that God has given us and done for us. Always maintain a vibrant life of praise and worship (Hebrews 13:15).

This is not a complete list of things that we should take heed to, but it is certainly a good start. Purpose today to do those things that are necessary. Purpose not to slip & drift.