

Week 3: FORMED Series

Guarding Against Spiritual Drift

Hebrews 2:1-4

¹ *We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.* ² *For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment,* ³ *how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.* ⁴ *God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.*

Summary of Brian's sermon:

Using the image of a person unknowingly being pushed along the beach by currents (drifting outside the red and yellow flags), the sermon warns that spiritual drift can be slow and unnoticed. It can be quiet, gradual, and often unfelt until we look up and find ourselves far from where we intended to be. There is also vivid nautical imagery in Hebrews 2 itself, and so the authors call to "pay careful attention" is a call to intentional, anchored living, because without it, the currents of life (busyness, relationships, comfort, and competing priorities) will pull us away from Jesus. The gospel message demands our attention not merely because of its consequences (judgement), but also because of who delivered it — the King himself, confirmed by eyewitnesses and the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit. The call is simple but urgent: we do not naturally drift toward Jesus, so we must be deliberate, or we will drift away.

After the service, one of our congregation members commented that the illustration can be taken a little further (which may be helpful). There may come seasons or situations where we have drifted so far off course, or where the current is so strong that we cannot fight it in our own strength. We need to rely on the Holy Spirit to rescue us and. Indeed it is not in our strength that we draw close to Jesus, but in His (we do still have the responsibility to surrendering to Him and doing what *is* in our control). This is a wonderful reminder of how gracious, powerful and compassionate our saviour is.

Application:

Brian encouraged us to assess where we are in relation to Jesus. Prayerfully ask the challenging question of ourselves and the Holy Spirit: have we [unintentionally] drifted? From the truth of the Gospel or our obedience to it.

A simple prayer to pray:

Lord search me. Show me where I am in relation to you and your will for my life; whether close or far. Please help me with whatever response you would like me to make and give me everything that I need to obey through your Holy Spirit.

He also asked us think about:

- Is there someone that I care about who is drifting? How can I encourage them in love.
- How can I put good rhythms and practices in place to keep close to Jesus.

Consider:

- The sermon described drift as something that happens gradually — not a dramatic rejection of God, but small decisions and quiet neglect over time. Does that picture resonate with you? Why could slow drift sometimes harder to spot than an outright crisis of faith?
- What are the "currents" in your own life that tend to pull you away from Jesus — even subtly? (e.g. busyness, relationships, comfort, fear of standing out, etc.).
- The sermon suggested that we don't naturally drift toward Jesus — that staying close takes intentionality. What does being intentional look like practically in your current season of life?
- The sermon ended with three potential responses which different people in the room may be feeling: (1) someone worried about a friend drifting, (2) someone realising they might be drifting, and (3) someone wanting to prevent future drift. Which of those three felt most like you this week? – is the Holy Spirit prompting you in any of these areas?

Formation Practice

We want to encourage you to do this simple exercise every day for the next 2 months. It can take 5 minutes or an hour, whatever you are able to achieve (and as you do it more and more, you'll likely find it easier to spend longer listening and reflecting).

Simple Daily Rhythm

1. Listen: Read a short passage from Hebrews
 - Free yourself from distractions (internal and external). You may find it helpful to play a worship song to focus your mind
 - Read slowly. Read the passage a few times.
 - [Lectio Divina](#) a one helpful method of reading and sitting with a passage.
2. Reflect: What is Jesus saying to me?
 - Pray and ask Jesus to speak to you. Sit in the quiet and listen. Is he asking you to do anything?
3. Respond: What will I do today?
 - Resolve to intentionally do something with what you have been given. There may be a practical step of obedience to take. Or you may be able to encourage someone else with what you have been given.