

*Be careful that  
you do not drift away!*



## The Book of Hebrews **Are We Drifting Away? So Great A Salvation**

Are you a good listener? In chapter one we learned that Jesus is now God's voice speaking to us in these last days. Are you letting His Word take root in your soul and spirit and transform you into His likeness?

### **A. Drifting Away—Neglecting So Great a Salvation**

The Greek word for 'drift away' has several pictorial or allegorical implications.

- 1. Slipping away:** This is like evaporation. Give insufficient heed with our mind and heart to the gospel and it will simply vanish into thin air. Water evaporates over time and when I need faith the most I may find it too has evaporated with neglect.
- 2. Leaking:** Leaks often go unnoticed until there is a mess on the floor or the container is empty. Truth leaks out of a mind that is not paying attention to the truth of God's Word. Solid truth fails to mature when it is not integrated into our behavior.
- 3. Drifting away:** The picture here is of a boat that rises and falls with the tide until one day it slips the dock and drifts away. This is related to verse 3 when we 'neglect so great a salvation.' In Hebrews 6:19 the preacher says regarding our hope in Christ, "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast..."

### **B. Taking "the More" Earnest Heed**

The preachers antidote for slipping, leaking and drifting away is 'taking earnest heed.' The Greek phrase means 'be more frequent, more abundant in being alert and full of faith in regards to the things of God.

**Take heed that you...**

- 1. Examine yourself:** Luke 17:3 "**Take heed to yourselves.**" It is said that the unexamined life is not worth living. John Wesley, John Calvin, and Martin Luther all practiced daily inner examination. We know that Jesus spent significant time alone with the Father. David cried out, "Search me oh God..." Psalm 139:23-24. Take time each day to let God examine your heart, actions, motives, behavior.
- 2. Let no one deceive you:** Matt 24: 4 "**Take heed that no one deceives you.**" Deception has become the norm from advertising to politics to economics to relationships. In spiritual and life matters I must become an Acts 17:11 believer and search the Word and seek the Lord to validate truth.
- 3. Be a doer of the Word:** Mark 4: 24 "**Take heed what you hear.**" This is not just the act of hearing—it is the process of receiving—breathing in [inhaling] the God-breathed Word and then exhaling [doing the Word]. [See 2 Tim 3:16 "Inspiration" in the Greek means "God breathed."]
- 4. Watch and pray:** Mark 13:33 "**Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.**" We are to be watchmen on the wall as was Ezekiel [Ezk 3:17] and we are to pray without ceasing [Phil 4:6-7]. We must NEVER think we can go 'off duty' when it comes to watching and praying.
- 5. Be transformed:** Mark 13:35 "**Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness.**" Many who think they are in the 'light' are really in the 'dark.' Jesus, the Light of the world wants your 'mind' [the way you think] renewed by the Spirit of God. [See Romans 12:1-2]
- 6. Be a builder not a destroyer:** 1 Cor 13:10 "**But let each one take heed how he builds on it.**" In this passage Paul is encouraging us to build up the Church [one another] with the things of the Spirit. The things that will have eternal value.
- 7. Don't fall from grace:** 1 Cor 10:12 "**Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.**" The Apostle Paul puts it this way, "But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness." The man or woman of God is known by what he or she 'flees from' and 'follows after.' (1 Tim 6:11)

***As we pursue holiness we need to remember that holiness is not  
the way to Christ but Christ is the way to holiness!***

### **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?