

## Spiritual Drift

2 Kings 17: 5-23

Spiritual Drift is the gradual erosion of spiritual life.

- Moving from a priority of the inside to a priority of the outside
- Moving from God first to ourselves first
- Moving from holiness to sinfulness

This drift is so gradual and subtle that we may not even perceive it until our spiritual lives are only a shell of the real thing. We end up in spiritual dryness, coldness, and boredom. We can work up the motions and even the emotions, but our hearts are far from the spiritual fire.

This is what happened to Israel in this chapter. It was too late and judgment fell. The writer wants us to be clear why these disasters were happening to them, so we don't make the same errors. It comes down to three causes:

1. What's around you in culture (vss. 7-8, 11)

We're told that even the most spiritual can be vexed by what goes on around them (2 Pet. 2: 7-9).

2. What's around you in companions (v. 14)

This verse also shows us that there are family strongholds and generational curses that come down the blood line.

3. What's inside you in carnality (16- 17)

Ultimately they made the decision to sin against the Lord and were personally responsible for their actions (Rom. 7: 18, 22-23)

Spiritual drift will always lead to disaster in some way. When we lose our souls, things begin to wither and die around us as well. We reap the consequences of our actions (Prov. 14: 14)

There is a way back. There is a way to rekindle the fire of spiritual renewal and refreshing in our souls. There is a way to end spiritual drift.

1. Repentance (Acts 3: 19)

We have to recognize where we have fallen from, and repent (Rev. 2: 5).

2. Returning (Rev. 2: 5)

This means remembering the way we were before the spiritual drift began. It has to be from a heart of repentance towards God and a calling upon His name, then doing those things we did before. It may not be the exact same things, but whatever we do, it must be from a heart pursuing God.

3. Removal from negative influences (Ps. 1:1)

There are companions we may have that have brought us into bondage. We have to separate ourselves from them as much as possible.

4. Walking in the Spirit (Gal. 5: 16)

How do we walk in the Spirit? It begins with being spiritually minded (Rom. 8: 5-6). We develop a spiritual mind by prayer and the word of God (John 15: 3, 17:17, Rom. 8:26).

We further develop our spiritual walk by staying in fellowship with spiritually minded people (Heb. 10: 24-25).

Finally, we stay on track going forward by making better decisions. Every moment we are tempted to make wrong decisions. One leads to another.

Likewise, one right decision leads to another right one, and then it gets easier to make the next right one. In fact, we will hear the Lord's voice more clearly when we obey Him more frequently.