

THE SILENT DRIFT

PRECEPT

Ecclesiastes 2:24-26

²⁴ A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, ²⁵ for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? ²⁶ To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

PROMISE

As we grow older, we become wiser, and sometimes we begin to think that we know better. "Lord, this is just a little compromise—just a little white lie, a little stealing here and there. I can handle this." Before you know it, you are farther away than you ever intended to be. No alarms, no sudden changes, and no dramatic moments; just a silent drift where a movement happens so slowly that you don't notice it.

This is what happened to King Solomon. He silently drifted away from God's presence when he began to compromise. King Solomon, despite all his greatness, wisdom, and riches, eventually lost what made him truly great. But the good news is that silent drift can be prevented.

BE PART OF A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. Attending a service and being connected are not the same thing. You can sit in the same room, listen to the same message, and sing the same songs, yet never build meaningful relationships with God's people. One of King Solomon's problems was that he became isolated from Godly accountability; he surrounded himself with people who affirmed his desires rather than challenged his compromises. We need people who can remind us of God's truth when our hearts start wandering. Be intentional in building meaningful relationships with other believers; join a life group and get connected.

DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD. Success can be more dangerous than failure. Sometimes God intervenes to protect us. 1 John 2:15-17 says, "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not for them."

REMAIN IN CHRIST. Spiritual decline usually begins with small compromises. One can remain successful outwardly while drifting inwardly. John 15:4-5 tells, "Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me, you can do nothing.'"

SELF EXAMINATION. Money without God cannot satisfy. Success without God cannot be fulfilled. Wisdom without God cannot save. Pleasure without God cannot sustain joy. True enjoyment doesn't come from the gifts themselves—it comes from the giver.

You can start fresh today, for many will start the race but not finish it. Many will drift and never return, but that story doesn't have to be yours. If you've drifted—even a little or a long way—the same God who used King Solomon at His best, still spoke through Him at His worst, is calling you home. No matter how far you've gone, you can come back. You can be the one who comes back and finishes strong.

PRACTICE

1. **Prevention.** Have you ever experienced a season of spiritual drift? What contributed to it?
2. **Silent Drift.** What steps will you take to guard your heart against spiritual compromise and drifting from God? How can we pray or encourage you regarding this?

PRAYER

I. Prayer

- Let us all continue to seek God's presence in our prayers.

II. Pastors

- May God's favour rest upon them and establish the work of their hands.

III. Leaders

- Pray for protection and provision for our elders, leaders, and coordinators.

IV. Disciples

- Pray that we will reflect God's love as we obey God in making disciples.

V. Gifts

- Pray that we may be equipped with the gifts of the Spirit to serve God.

VI. Wisdom

- May we be wise, making the most of every opportunity and knowing His will.

VII. Unreached

- Pray that the light of Christ may shine into the darkness of the lives of everyone.