

4Ws for Week 31, 1-7 Aug'2022

(With COVID-19, this 4Ws is to be adapted for use at both online and in-person meetings.)

WELCOME (15 minutes)

Choose one of the following icebreakers:

(If you have first-time guests, begin with a round of introduction and warmly welcome the new visitors.)

1. Singapore's 57th National Day – 9th August

The theme for this year's NDP is "**Stronger Together, Majulah!**" As a citizen, share what you can do to build our beloved nation stronger? If you are not a Singaporean but studying/working or living here, share something you like about this nation.

2. Opening Up of International Travel

With international travel opened up, many have been bitten by the travel bug once again after an extended lapse because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Share about your recent travel or your upcoming travel plans for this year.

Transition to Worship:

Rev. 4:11: "Worthy are you, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honour and power; for you created all things, and because of your will they existed, and were created." Lord, as we are gathered together in your name; we want to offer our wholehearted worship to you.

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following worship songs:

- 1) I Love You Lord - Steffany Gretzinger (C)
- 2) Fresh Wind - Hillsong (D)

(Do pause for the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Encourage members to exercise the gifts of the Spirit. If there's a word, a vision, tongues and interpretation of tongues, release it to minister to each other).

Transition to Word:

*"For the **Word of God** is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." Lord, let your Word convict, bring renewal and revival to our lives. Let it also be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our paths.*

WORD (45 minutes)

Memory verse of the week: Gen.1:27 (NIV)

"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

Sermon Title: Drifting

By Rev. Roland Lee

on 30 & 31 July'2022

Scripture Passage: Hebrews 2:1-3 (NIVUK)

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?

Introduction

The previous weekend, SP Daniel shared three important points on what we need to know about spiritual growth. Spiritual growth does not happen: 1. Independently, 2. In Isolation, 3. Instantly.

Last weekend, Ps Roland's message warned us about the dangers that pull us away from God, and we are taught how to overcome drifting in our Christian lives. Entitled: "Drifting", he shared two key truths on how we can overcome the danger of drifting away from God beyond the point of no return. The two key truths are:

1. Be Alert to Fatal Distractions.
2. Be Anchored in Faithful Devotion.

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. What must we be alert to, so we don't get distracted and drift away from God?

A1. God's Word wants us to pay careful attention (Hebrews 2:1), and to be alert (1 Peter 5:8) lest we ignore and think those little fatal distractions are harmless.

Distractions we must pay careful attention to that can come in these forms:

- **Worldliness** – pursuit of success, wealth, and status that cause us to drift away from the Lord. The Bible warns us on distractions due to the pursuit of money (1 Timothy 6:10)
- **Worries** – concerns of our lives that loom larger than God and we lose focus on His goodness and greatness. We doubt God's help, and we drift away instead of drawing near to Him.
- **Wounds** – offences, unforgiveness and unresolved broken relationships that cause us to disconnect and drift away from God and God's family because we are unwilling to deal with those wounds according to God's ways.

The drifting process we must be alert to that can take place in our lives:

- **Drifting requires no effort** – the moment we find ourselves losing diligence and distracted from reading God's word, prayer or doing God's work, we are drifting!
- **Starts with an unconscious process** – like undercurrents in a boat that are unnoticeable from the surface, the little things or distractions in our lives pull and cause us to drift away.
- **The speed downstream increases** – missing or skipping daily devotions and CG meetings, boy-girl relationship (BGR) distractions, or worldly success pursuits are some examples of what we need to pay careful attention to before it's too late.
- **It can affect others** – it affects our lives, the people close to us, and most importantly, it pains the heart of God our Father who loves us.
- **It ends in shipwreck (finally...)** – the consequence of not being alert to small but fatal distractions that grew larger and larger.

Hebrews 2:1 (NIVUK)

We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.

1 Peter 5:8 (NIVUK)

⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Timothy 6:10 (NIVUK)

...¹⁰ Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

Q2. What must we do to be anchored, secured from drifting?

A2. We must put aside all distractions and anchor ourselves strong in devotion to Jesus (Hebrews 6:19). In other words, a relationship of devoted love intimacy with the Lord, which requires effort and diligence to be faithful on our part (Colossians 2:6-7).

Anchoring strong in Jesus to overcome drifting requires us to:

- **Keep Rowing.** Don't stop rowing in our Christian life because the moment we do, we will start to drift. Our Christian life requires us to row hard, and to be diligent and faithful in building our relationship with Jesus (2 Peter 1:5-8).
- **Watch Out for Undercurrents.** Pay careful attention to undercurrents that come in the form of: temptations or distractions that may not be noticeable, compromises, substitution of devotion to Jesus with people or things, false beliefs – thinking we can get out or stop easily. Bear in mind – more often than not, we are trapped by them. They entangle our faith, and push us further and further away from the Lord. The Bible warns us to be careful of everything that hinders, and the sin that so easily entangles (Hebrews 12:1).
- **Go Against the Tide.** There are many tides to sweep us away: popularity, peer pressure, praise of others, success and wealth, false Christian teachings that say no effort is needed or that sin is not a big issue. Simply following the crowd and taking the easy path leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23)

Hebrews 6:19 (NIVUK)

¹⁹ We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure...

Colossians 2:6-7 (NIVUK)

⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

2 Peter 1:5-8 (NKJV)

⁵ But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 12:1 (NIVUK)

...everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23 (NIVUK)

¹³ 'Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

²¹ 'Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?" ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, "I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!"

Application Questions

Break into smaller groups, share, pray and minister to one another.

Q1. Have you been distracted and drifted away from God? Share honestly, repent and take the corrective steps to row back to God and to the church community.

Q2. Do you know someone who have been distracted and has drifted away from God? As a cell pray for this person and reach out to bring the person back.

Transition to Works:

Heavenly Father, let the living and active Word of God be authenticated through works in our lives to demonstrate the authority, power and reality of God and a strong witness to unbelievers in our midst. Amen.

WORKS (15 minutes)

1. Focus on CG Outreach

The focus of CG meetings is *edification, equipping* and *evangelism*. In every CG meeting, spend time to encourage your members to do personal outreach right where they are. Give some time each week during the WORKS portion for them to share their outreach efforts. Plan regular (monthly or quarterly CG outreach, either as a whole CG or in separate groups) into your CG roster.

2. Continue to Connect with Potential BESTs / Pre-Believers

- a. Make evangelism a lifestyle – each week invite pre-believing friends/BESTs/3x3 contacts (depending on their comfort level) to join you in watching our livestream service/in church onsite service. Connect with them and spur other members to do so.
- b. When the salvation altar call is made during the service, a Response Form link will be screened for those who have responded or want to respond, to fill in. The links are:
 - For English -- www.fcbc.org.sg/connectwithus
 - For Chinese -- www.fcbc.org.sg/zh/connectwithus

Get your pre-believing contacts to fill up the Response Form or you can help them fill it up. When filling up the Form, try to provide as much of the information needed as possible, and do so immediately after the service.

3. Encourage CG Members to Attend Onsite Service

Arrange to meet up before or after service for fellowship. Get them to invite pre-believing contacts to the service. Use the pre/post service fellowship times for your CG members to connect with your invitees.

4. FCBC Conference (25 – 28 Aug)

Remind your members to block out these dates for the above:

- 25 August, Thursday, evening (for Leaders only)
- 26 August, Friday, evening
- 27 August, Saturday, (full day)
- 28 August, Sunday, morning till afternoon

For more announcements, please visit www.fcbc.org.sg/announcements or our social media platforms – we can be found on Facebook and Instagram @fbcsg.