

## **SPIRITUAL DROPOUTS**

### **Introduction**

- ✚ This has always been a problem in the Lord's church.
- ✚ Some drop out and still go to church.
- ✚ Today there is a great concern about boys and girls dropping out of school before they finish.
- ✚ There are millions being spent to correct this problem.
- ✚ This is a vital problem and we must be concerned about it.
- ✚ But the problem of dropouts is not limited to our schools.
- ✚ The church of God is having a dropout problem of its own.
- ✚ Someone has said we lose 50 percent of our new members every 7 years.
- ✚ I don't know whether this is true or not, but we do lose a lot of them.

### **Why do people leave God, and drop out of His service?**

- ✚ The Bible teaches a man can drop out, or fall away from grace. Galatians 5:4.
- ✚ Peter tells us that the "latter end is worse than the first." 2 Peter 2:20.
- ✚ The Hebrew writer says that some were, "departing from the living God." Hebrews 3:12.
- ✚ James speaks of people being in error and then being converted from the error of his ways. James 5:17-20.

### **Let us see some reasons why people drop out.**

#### **THEY FAIL TO COUNT THE COST**

- ✚ Before conversion, they fail to take the cost into account. Luke 14:25-35.
- ✚ They fail to consider, "denying themselves." Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23.
- ✚ They fail to realize that 99.44% won't do.

#### **THEY FAIL TO LISTEN TO GOD'S MESSENGERS**

- ✚ Read: Jeremiah 7:25-28; 2 Timothy 4:1-6.

#### **THEY FAIL TO DEVELOP VIRTUES OF A CHRISTIAN**

- ✚ Read: 2 Peter 1:5-11.

#### **THEY FAIL BECAUSE OF WRONG ASSOCIATION**

- ✚ This was Solomon's problem. 1 Kings 11:1-13.
- ✚ It can also be our problem. 1 Corinthians 15:33.

#### **THEY FAIL TO BE LED BY THE WORD OF GOD**

- ✚ They continue in their ignorance. Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15; Hosea 4:6.

#### **THEY FAIL BECAUSE OF THE DEMANDS OF THIS LIFE**

- ✚ Consider the parable of the sower and the soils. Luke 8:9-14.

#### **THEY FAIL BECAUSE OF THE DESIRE TO BE RICH AND TO HOLD ON TO THEIR RICHES**

- 📖 Matthew 19:16-22.
- 📖 Paul warns against such. 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19.
- 📖 John also warns about worldly desires. 1 John 2:15-17.

#### **THEY FAIL BECAUSE SIN IS SO DECEITFUL**

- 📖 Read: Hebrews 3:12,13.

#### **THEY FAIL BECAUSE OF FALSE DOCTRINE**

- 📖 Read: 1 Timothy 4:1-4; Acts 20:28-31.

#### **THEY FAIL BECAUSE THEY ARE SET IN THEIR OWN WAYS**

- 📖 Read: Proverbs 14:14; 1:30-33.

#### **THEY LOSE THEIR LOVE FOR GOD**

- 📖 Read: John 14:15; Revelation 2:4; Matthew 24:12.

#### **THEY FAIL BECAUSE OF IN-ACTIVITY AND COMPLACENCY**

- 📖 Read: James 2:14-26.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

- 📖 Are you a spiritual dropout?
- 📖 If you are, the Bible tells you how to come back.
- 📖 Repent and return: Acts 8:18-24; Luke 13:3; Jeremiah 3:22.
- 📖 There is no better time than right now to get right with God.
- 📖 Won't you come now?