Dear Open Door Family,

"Flip and Dip" No, it is not a recipe for pancakes dipped in chocolate. When I was in high school I remember a few times that I was interested in knowing what God wanted me to do. In those days I struggled with having a regular quiet time and most of the time when I read the Bible it was pretty haphazard. So, when it came time to seek an answer from God I resorted to the "Flip and Dip." No, that is not some exotic method of finding God's will by going swimming. It is a method where you close your eyes, let your Bible fall open and then drop your finger down and read the verse that is there. I have to be honest; it did not work very well. Taking verses out of context and trying to make them fit the situation I was facing just did not work. The "Flip and Dip" did was a disaster. I have found that most of the time when I'm seeking guidance from the Lord He uses verses from the passages I am reading through systematically. I seldom read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. But I always read systematically through the books that I am reading. When I start a book I will read all the way through it before I move on to another one. So these verses that I want to share come from my reading today. Recently I have had several lengthy discussions with people who have slowly drifted away from the things of God. As I was reading that was on my mind. How does someone who knows the Lord and been in ministry drift away and leave it all behind? Look at these verses with me please.

2 Chronicles 12:14 (HCS) Rehoboam did what was evil, because he did not determine in his heart to seek the LORD.

King Rehoboam was Solomon's son. He did what was evil and disobeyed God. So the Lord used the king of Egypt to humble him. But this verse shows the root of the problem. He had not make a firm decision or commitment to serve and follow God no matter what, so he ended up doing what was evil and causing death and hardship to the nation of Judah as a result.

Psalm 119:30 (NET) I choose the path of faithfulness; I am committed to your regulations.

The answer is to CHOOSE to be Faithful instead of UNFAITHFUL. The writer of this Psalm is making an unshakable promise to God that he will be Faithful. How is he going to keep that promise? The next phrase explains how. He is COMMITTED to God's Word. That means that he has accepted the reality that God has spoken through the Bible and he is taking seriously what has been said. He has made a firm decision that he will learn and obey God's Word. How does anyone drift away? It does not normally happen overnight or in one momentous event. It is a slow almost imperceptible shift away from the commitment to God and His Word. Once the Word of God is not a daily part of a person's life then it becomes easier and easier to accept the garbage we are bombarded with as truth and to begin to question God's Word.

PRAYER: Lord God, keep me always on the path of Faithfulness. Help me to continue to totally commit to seeking You through Your Word. Help me, Lord God, to hear Your voice everyday as I look into Your Word. Lord, help me even more to have a passionate desire to obey Your Word.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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