

COME BACK TO THE RACE

*WHAT HEBREWS TEACHES US ABOUT
CHURCH, DRIFTING, AND GRACE*

1. THE ONE WHO DRIFTED (WITH A LAUGH)

**GARY WAS A FAITHFUL CHURCH MEMBER
WHO SLOWLY DRIFTED AWAY, NOT
THROUGH CRISIS BUT THROUGH BUSY
SEASONS AND "WE'LL GO NEXT WEEK."**

**A SIMPLE TEXT FROM A FRIEND — "WE MISS
YOU, THERE'S A SEAT WITH YOUR NAME ON
IT" — BROUGHT HIM BACK, AND HEBREWS
WAS WRITTEN TO A WHOLE COMMUNITY
DOING EXACTLY WHAT GARY DID.**

2. CHURCH ISN'T OPTIONAL — IT'S HOW WE SURVIVE THE RACE

HEBREWS 10:19-25 (NIV)

“THEREFORE, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, SINCE WE HAVE CONFIDENCE TO ENTER THE MOST HOLY PLACE BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS... LET US DRAW NEAR TO GOD... LET US HOLD UNSWERVINGLY TO THE HOPE WE PROFESS, FOR HE WHO PROMISED IS FAITHFUL. AND LET US CONSIDER HOW WE MAY SPUR ONE ANOTHER ON TOWARD LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS, NOT GIVING UP MEETING TOGETHER, AS SOME ARE IN THE HABIT OF DOING, BUT ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER—AND ALL THE MORE AS YOU SEE THE DAY APPROACHING.”

**HEBREWS TEACHES THAT GATHERING
TOGETHER ISN'T A SCHEDULING
PREFERENCE — IT'S SURVIVAL GEAR FOR
TIRED BELIEVERS TEMPTED TO GIVE UP.**

Hebrews 12:1(NIV)

“Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”

**FAITH IS A MARATHON, NOT A SPRINT,
AND CHURCH IS THE WATER STATION
AND THE FRIEND RUNNING BESIDE YOU.**

3. WHY WE DRIFT IN THE FIRST PLACE

DRIFTING RARELY LOOKS LIKE REBELLION

— IT LOOKS LIKE AN UNTIED BOAT

SLIPPING SLOWLY FROM ITS MOORING

(HEBREWS 2:1).

Hebrews 2:1(NIV)

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

Hebrews 3:12-13(NIV)

“See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called ‘Today,’ so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitful power.”

Hebrews 6:11-12(NIV)

“We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.”

**IT'S USUALLY A CRISIS OF HABIT AND
EXHAUSTION, NOT BELIEF, AS SMALL
EXCUSES FEEL HARMLESS UNTIL A YEAR
HAS PASSED (HEBREWS 3:12-13, 6:11-12).**

4. WHAT WE GAIN TOGETHER THAT WE CAN'T GET ALONE

Hebrews 10:24-25(MSG)

“Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.”

**HEBREWS 10:24-25 CALLS BELIEVERS TO
BE "INVENTIVE" IN ENCOURAGING ONE
ANOTHER — CREATIVE, PRESENT,
IMPERFECT LOVE, LIKE A CHURCH
POTLUCK.**

Hebrews 13:1-6(NIV)

“Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.”

**COMMUNITY GIVES US PERSPECTIVE,
STRENGTH, AND TRUTH THAT WE CAN'T
GET ALONE, AND THAT A PODCAST CAN'T
REPLICATE.**

5. BRINGING THE NEXT GENERATION TO THE RACE

Psalm 78:4, 6(NIV)

“We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord... so the next generation would know them... and they in turn would tell their children.”

**PSALM 78 REMINDS US THIS RACE ISN'T
JUST FOR US — IT'S FOR THE NEXT
GENERATION, WHO INHERIT WHATEVER
PATTERN WE HAND THEM.**

**GARY'S OWN DAUGHTER SAID, "I
THOUGHT MAYBE WE JUST DIDN'T DO
CHURCH ANYMORE," SHOWING WHY
SHOWING UP CONSISTENTLY MATTERS.**