

Introduction:

Spiritual entropy is a fact of life!

- **The Symptoms:**

- Internal –
- External –

- **The Danger:**

- **The Question:**

- **The Problem:**

Paul Models A “Rescue 911” Response:

1. Paul thanks God continually for the manner in which the Thessalonians received the Word of God.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 – 16

2. Paul expresses his deep affection and longing for the Thessalonians.

1 Thessalonians 2:17 – 20

3. Paul’s deep concern and genuine fears motivate him to send Timothy to encourage the Thessalonians.

1 Thessalonians 3:1 – 5

4. Paul explodes with joy and breaks out into prayer over Timothy’s report of the Thessalonians positive spiritual progress.

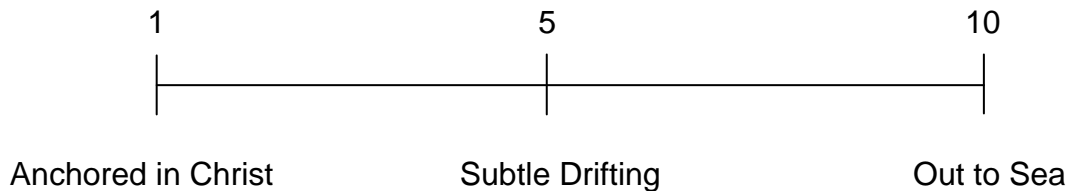
1 Thessalonians 3:6 - 13

The 4 Steps of “Rescue Intervention”

1. **Communicate** your gratitude for the authenticity of their faith in the midst of spiritual opposition. —→
2. **Express** your sincere concern for them as a person with words and ways that make sense to them. —→
3. **Pursue** a specific means of “relational connection” with them for the purpose of spiritual encouragement and protection. —→
4. **Rejoice** with them and “over them” at any and every step of positive spiritual progress. —→

Application / Discussion Questions:

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, what manner of “spiritual drifting” is occurring in your life right now?



2. Quickly list those who come to your mind whom you sense are spiritually drifting. Which one of these people do you care enough about to attempt a “rescue intervention?”
3. What specific obstacles or fears make you “less than eager” to take this step of “rescue intervention?”
4. What positive factors (obedience, consequences of failing to do so, support and help from others, etc.) “most motivate” you to step out in faith and help someone in spiritual danger?
5. When will you start “operation rescue?”