

# THE PATH OF DIVERGENCE



The truth plainly states that apostasy will and does occur.

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- *“I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel, which is not another, only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ” (Galatians 1:6-7).*
- *“But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron” (1 Timothy 4:1-2).*

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- *“Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God (Hebrews 3:12).*
- *“You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness” (2 Peter 3:17).*

Conformity to worldliness and error is a path taken, a process which turns the heart.

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- Divergence begins with tolerance.
  - To allow, to permit, to not interfere with
  - The Lord rebuked the church in Thyatira because they tolerated a prophetess (Revelation 2:20).
- A little leaven can leaven us.

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- Tolerance then leads to acceptance.
  - To receive willingly, to receive favorably, to agree or consent
  - Psalm 1:1 – walking, standing and sitting
  - Arrogance led a church to fellowship an immoral brother (1 Corinthians 5:1, 2).
  - Beware of favorable greetings communicating approval and consent to wrong doing (2 John 8-11).

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- The next step of divergence is to embrace it.
  - To accept readily, to take up, to adopt
- Knowledge is no guarantee that a person of faith will not heartily approve of what God disapproves (Romans 1:21, 25, 32).

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- The final step of divergence is promotion.
  - To bring about growth, to further growth, to publicize or advertise
- Paul warned about Christians teaching falsely and drawing brethren after their ways (Acts 20:29-30).
- Introducing falsehood among God's people to get followers has been a tactic of the devil (1 Peter 2:1-3).