

## FOUR EASY STEPS TO SPIRITUALLY FAIL

### **#1 - Stay Away from Growing Christians**

One important factor in the direction of your life is your primary relationships. Passion is contagious. If you're around people who are passionate in their relationship with God, it will impact you. If you hang with people who are ignoring or running away from God you will ensure your downward spiral spiritually.

It's best to stay away from weekly worship with your church, because encountering God and His people will interfere with your path toward failure. Small groups are lethal. Stay away from them at all costs.

### **#2 - Tell Yourself What You Want to Hear**

If you're going to fail, stay away from Truth. Self-deception is a skill you can hone into an art form. Live in denial. Compromise. Develop excuses for your behavior and why you can't change. If you don't like one of God's laws—ignore it! Or better yet, change it!

### **#3 - Avoid Time in the Presence of God**

Quiet time is dangerous. Keep the TV on. Distract yourself constantly. Make sure your Bible is hard to find. If you don't, you will hear the Holy Spirit speaking to you about your negligence and calling you to Himself. Noise, entertainment, and distractions are key to eliminating the room necessary for the Holy Spirit to transform your life.

### **#4 - Live Only for the Moment /Give No Thought to Life's Meaning**

Reflection hinders your path to spiritual malaise. If you consider eternity and what matters most to God, you will begin to make decisions leading to spiritual health and humility. Be hedonistic. Do what feels good and what provides you with great pleasure right now.

Don't evaluate how pleasure-seeking affects your life or the lives of those around you. That would smack of wisdom. Instead, choose foolishness. Foolishness and failure are linked. To fail spiritually, blame God and people around you for your problems. (J. Peake 2011)

*([http://jeffleake.typepad.com/the\\_launchpad/2011/12/four-ways-to-fail-spiritually-in-2012.html](http://jeffleake.typepad.com/the_launchpad/2011/12/four-ways-to-fail-spiritually-in-2012.html))*

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## FOUR SIGNIFICANT STEPS TO FAITH

### **#1 - Connect With God and Other Believers**

Be faithful to collective worship. Make the community of faith a high priority. Allow people to depend on you and rely on them. Offer to and be careful to pray for the Body of Christ. Keep growing, learning and trusting. Be accountable to godly brothers and sisters in Christ. Encourage them as they encourage you.

### **#2 - Let God's Word Rule Your Heart**

Allow the framework God has established for your life to bring you joy, peace and health. Embrace the Lord's Truth, and be transformed by His grace. Live within its boundaries. Extend grace to others and trust Him to provide what you need most. Read and study God's Word and let it shape your thoughts, actions and conversations. Practice being content.

### **#3 - Seek the Lord First**

Humbly surrender yourself to Jesus. Put Him before your family, your work and your money. Let God's love reorganize your priorities. Trust Him with every aspect of your life and let God transform it all. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you identify those things that distract you from Him or distort what is true and then choose Jesus.

### **#4 - Live for God**

Remember the way you live today influences the Body of Christ (all of us!) and either blesses or discourages/harms your family. What is done in secret, really does affect the world. Be blameless. Keep "short accounts" with God and quickly repent from any unloving, self-serving choice. Receive the lavish grace of Christ and enjoy the peace of forgiveness and love. Stay close to God's people. Stay even closer to God.

*Remain connected and all of God's promised blessings are yours.*

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