

Divine Sorrow Over Spiritual Defection

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I. Introduction.

A. Spiritual defection is a theme throughout Scripture. (2 Timothy 1:15; 4:10, 16; Luke 19; 1 John 2:19; Hebrews 3:14; John 6:66)

B. There are identifying marks of a spiritual defector.

II. A spiritual defector is attracted by the crowd.

III. A spiritual defector is attracted by the miraculous.

A. Healing and the miraculous will always attract a crowd. (Matthew 12:15; John 4; Acts 8)

B. Many are only attracted to Christianity because of miracles.

IV. A spiritual defector is only concerned with earthly things. Many tried to take Jesus and make him the kind of Messiah they wanted. (Deuteronomy 18:15; Acts 3:22-23)

V. A spiritual defector has no feel for true worship. (John 6:20)

VI. A spiritual defector seeks only personal prosperity.

VII. A spiritual defector makes demands on God.

A. He does not want salvation.

B. He wants power.

C. He is looking for outward fulfillment.

VIII. A spiritual defector seeks no personal relationship. The essence of true relationship seeks a relationship with God.

Application Questions:

1. Why is it important to recognize the spiritual defector ahead of time?

2. What experience have you had with someone who has fallen away from the faith? Were any of these signs present?

3. How should we respond when we see these signs among people we are in fellowship with? Explain.
