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if he can distract or divert us, he can shipwreck God's purpose for our lives.

Biblical case studies of the drift

When we look at Scripture through this lens, we see the tension between the divine mission and the shadow mission playing out in the lives of major figures.

1. Adam and Eve: Stewardship vs. "more" (Genesis 3)

- Mission: Take care of the garden.
- Shadow: Satan convinced them that what they had in Eden wasn't enough and that they needed to be like God. They needed "more."
- Result: They lost their place in the garden because they couldn't manage the tension of contentment and enough.

2. Samson: Liberation vs. validation (Judges 14-16)

- Mission: Free Israel from captivity. He was given abundant talent to achieve this.
- Shadow: Showmanship and worldly relationships.
- Result: Instead of leading, he squandered his gift, tearing lions apart (Judges 14:6), catching 300 foxes (Judges 15:4), and lifting city gates for sport (Judges 16:3).
- His pursuit of the wrong women (Philistine prostitutes and Delilah) proved that while he had the strength of a giant, he had the drift of a lost child.

3. Jesus: The suffering servant vs. the celebrity messiah (Luke 4:1-13)

Even Jesus had to wrestle with this tension. In the wilderness, Satan offered him a corrupted version of the messiahship.

- The shadow offer: A mission without hunger ("turn stones to bread" – Luke 4:3), without pain ("you won't strike your foot" – Luke 4:11), and without sacrifice ("bow down... I will give you the kingdoms" – Luke 4:6-7).
- The reality: Satan was whispering, "You don't have to do this God's way. There is an alternative to the cross."

Jesus stared this shadow in the face and rejected it. He knew that a mission without a cross was not a mission from God.

The danger: Morphing from servant to consumer

How do we recognize if we are drifting? One of the most common signs is a shift in our attitude toward the church.

We often join the church grateful for salvation, saying, "Here I am, send me". But slowly, the crosswind hits.

- We stop wanting to serve and start demanding to be served.
- We ask, "Why isn't the music to my taste?" or "Why doesn't the church meet my needs?"
- We become experts at avoidance of service.

We morph from servants of Christ into religious consumers. This is the shadow mission of comfort: seeking a life without the inconvenience of the cross.

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March 11, 2026 • Middle East Missions Society

Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters across the Middle East, especially in Lebanon. In recent weeks, the situation has escalated sharply. Current estimates show between 300,000 and 500,000 people displaced from Southern Lebanon and the southern...

> **Spread the Love Mission in St. Kitts & Nevis**

March 10, 2026 • Caroline C. Ravello – Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

The second Spread the Love Mission will take place this summer, from July 27 to August 3, focused on winning souls for Christ on the island territory of St Kitts & Nevis (SKN). When Andy and Marva Small...

> **The Lake**

March 6, 2026 • Richard Boll – Broward, FL, USA

On February 28, 2008, I almost drowned in the Broward Church's lake while mowing the grass and didn't expect to survive. Here is my story: I was in charge of a lawn team that took turns cutting the church's lawn (more than three acres of grass) each...

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Divine Tension: Embracing the Fullness of God's Truth (Part 4)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Marriage Retreat Cruise

April 4-11, 2026
San Diego, CA, USA

Church Builders Conference

April 23-26, 2026
Boston, MA, USA

Eastern Europe Discipleship Summit

May 1-3, 2026
Budapest, Hungary

Marriage Retreat Cruise

May 2-9, 2026
Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA

North American Singles Conference

September 3-6, 2026
Baltimore, MD, USA

DT Travel 2026 Mediterranean Cruise:

Footsteps of Paul
September 12-22, 2026

North American Teachers Conference

September 17-19, 2026
Raleigh, NC, USA

Conferencia de Las Americas

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Oct 15-18, 2026

CONNECTING DISCIPLES IN
CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD



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March 12, 2026 • Justin Renton – Johannesburg, South Africa

In aviation, there is a phenomenon known as "drift." If a pilot wants to fly directly from Point A to Point B, they cannot simply point the nose of the plane at the destination and fly. Why? Because of the wind. An invisible crosswind will push the aircraft sideways, carrying it miles off course without the pilot even feeling the turn.

To fly straight, the pilot must establish a crab angle, turning the nose of the plane into the wind to counteract the drift. The tension here is between the intended path and the environmental drift. To the untrained eye, the plane looks like it is flying crooked, but it is the only way to arrive at the correct destination.

This aerodynamic reality illustrates a profound spiritual principle. We are all designed with a specific trajectory: a divine mission. Yet, we live in a world with a constant spiritual crosswind, a shadow mission, that tirelessly pushes us to drift off course.

Your mission vs. your shadow mission

Every human being has a divine mission. We are not accidents of the universe or mere assemblages of atoms; we are God's masterpieces, created in Christ Jesus to do good things planned long ago (Ephesians 2:10). We were made to make a difference.

However, the tension arises because we also possess a shadow mission. A shadow mission is where we drift from God's original design and start pursuing something else, often something more selfish in nature.

The term was popularized by John Ortberg and was illustrated in the Gulf War movie Three Kings. While the US army was tasked with the liberation of Kuwait, George Clooney leads a rogue unit pursuing Iraqi treasure. The unit ate in the same mess halls and attended the same briefings, but when the army marched into battle, they went off in search of gold. Their fellow soldiers were completely unaware that the unit was on a whole other mission. Satan works hard to "sell" us on these shadow missions because he knows



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