Sometimes even the faith of the faithful can stagger...

Surely God is good to Israel, who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

(Psalm 73:1-3)

- Spiritual apathy: a state of indifference towards God and His word "We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!" (Heb. 5:11-12)
- To do <u>nothing</u> about it is to do <u>something</u> "We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away." (Heb. 2:1)

1st Gear: making short shifts to gain spiritual momentum...

- <u>Prayer</u> shift: engage God <u>honestly</u> "I pour out my complaint before Him; before Him I tell my trouble. When my spirit grows faint within me, it is you who know my way."

 (Psalm 142:2-3)
- Word shift: engage Scripture strategically "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law... Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors...My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word." (Psalm 119:18, 24, 28)

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Heb. 4:12)

- <u>Relational</u> shift: engage an <u>encourager</u> frequently "Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, brother, because you have refreshed the hearts of many saints." (Philemon 7)
- <u>Perspective</u> shift: engage <u>one eye</u> on eternity "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." (2 Cor. 4:18)

A word of hope when you're spiritually "stuck": God never stops engaging you...

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with everincreasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Cor. 3:17-18)

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Heb. 13:5)