

## I. REVIEW/INTRO

### A. Under the Influence

**Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (NKJV)** “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- Under the influence soundbites
  - Engraving happens in the ordinary rhythms of life
  - Every one of us is living under the influence of something or someone
  - What shapes one generation often gets passed to the next

### B. Culture competes

- The culture around us is not neutral

## II. GO WITH THE FLOW?

### A. The invisible current

- There seems to be a gravitational pull in life that’s easy to drift with

### B. The age of this world

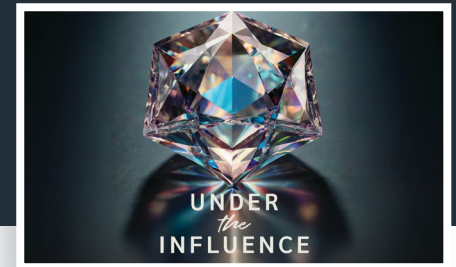
**Ephesians 2:1-2 (NKJV)** And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

- Greek “aion”, the spirit of an age, the atmosphere of a culture, the current mindset of a generation, the pattern of the world system, a system of time, the spirit or atmosphere of an age
- ### C. Every generation
- “Every generation has an “aion” — a **vibe**, **mindset**, and **atmosphere** shaping how people think.”

## III. BEATING THE DRIFT

### A. The current is subtle

**Hebrews 2:1 (NLT)** So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it.



- Drift is usually unintentional and usually happens slowly

B. The solution to the drift

**Hebrews 3:12 (NIV) See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.**

C. The Kingdom of God has a current

- This is why the church matters so much, because when the people of God move together in the same direction, something powerful happens

**Ephesians 4:11-13 (Message) He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.**

- Because it is hard to fight a current alone

D. Casual Christianity has never been enough

- In a culture full of competing currents, going with the flow has never produced spiritual strength
- This is why we are intentionally building environments of formation here at Joy