

PRESSURE POINTS: The Danger of Drifting Spiritually

Andy Deane · 11/24/2024 · James 5:19-20

James 5:19-20, 19 My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, 20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Heed the Warning: The Danger of Drifting

- We never wander away just theologically. It always leads to wandering with our hearts and actions.
- Galatians 2:14, *When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel...*
- Most don't wander deliberately. Where have you wandered? Receive this warning.
- Romans 7:15, *I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.*

Answer the Call: Become a Rescuer

- The call to rescue isn't just assigned to pastors, but to all believers.
- Will you move from consumer to rescuer? We're not only adopted into his family, but employed in his service.
- How do we join God in rescuing others? We do that:
 - Relationally: Stop being casual, work towards real friendships that have vulnerable conversations.
 - Selectively: James 5:19, *...wander from the truth...*
 - Humbly: Matthew 7:3, *...first take the plank out of your own eye...*
 - Gently: Galatians 6:1, *...you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently...*
 - Boldly: I want people to love me more than they love our friendship, so they speak up when I'm wandering.

Grasp the Weight: Lives Hang in the Balance

- We can wander because we aren't scared enough of sin. We see it less than life and death. We minimize it.
- We are able to look at sin (that leads to death) and see satisfaction (that leads to life), but that's not seeing truth!
- We wander towards death but we make a conscious decision to intentionally walk toward life.

Rely on Grace: God Empowers Restoration

- Jesus is so gracious in His patience and mercy toward us. You'd expect he'd say, "how dare you wander from me!" But He says, "I forgive, I love you, you are mine" (ie. Luke 23:34)
- You can never wander so far from God that he won't find you
- Here are five statements about our eternal security that are important to remember when studying James 5:
 1. We are justified by grace alone, through faith alone, apart from works (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:28)
 2. Those who are justified will certainly be glorified (Romans 8:30)
 3. But no one will be glorified who does not continue in faith (1 Corinthians 15:1-2; Colossians 1:21-23)
 4. God himself will keep his children from finally falling away (Philippians 1:6; 1 Corinthians 1:8-9)
 5. God keeps his children by means of his children (Hebrews 3:13-14; James 5:19-20)

Beginning Your Journey with Jesus:

If you've recently put your trust in Jesus for your salvation please text JOURNEY to (951)425-4425. We'll send you videos to support your new journey with Jesus and you'll be able to ask our pastors questions and schedule a meeting with us to talk about your new faith and how you can grow at Cornerstone.

If you are a follower of Jesus and have not been baptized please text BAPTISM to RSVP for our 12/8 baptism.