



# fairwaybaptistchurch

September 23, 2007  
Authentic Faith – James 5:19-20

There is the possibility of those in our midst wandering away from the way of **truth**. James' statement is not one of possibility, but of **probability**.

Two kinds of people who stray:

- 1) Those who never really believed and **embraced** the truth in the first place
- 2) **Believers** who are caught in a sin

Wandering almost always begins in one of 6 ways:

- 1) **Suffering** – People don't understand why God would let something like this happen.
- 2) The **truthfulness** of Scripture – People who begin to question whether the Bible is true and trustworthy.
- 3) **Faith** alone for salvation – People who think they have to do something to make up for their sins.
- 4) Exclusivity of **Jesus** – People who can't accept that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation.
- 5) **Lordship** of Christ – People who abuse grace as a license to live their lives how they want.
- 6) Necessity of life in the **body** of Christ – People who think and act like they don't need the fellowship of believer.

Wandering from the truth begins with subtle, **small steps**. It rarely happens with large leaps.

How are we going to respond?

- 1) **Pretend** like everything is fine.
- 2) **Ignore** any kind of sinful behavior.  
- James **assumes** that we as believers are going to actively **pursue** the person who has wandered off in order to turn him back.

If we're going to be a God –honoring church, each of us has to feel a **responsibility** towards our brother.

The reason James assumes in verse 19 is because it is explicitly **commanded** in other passages.

Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1-2

The only way to know the difference between a wanderer who never believed and one who really did is whether or not he **returns** to the truth with his **life**.

Romans 6:23; Proverbs 14:12; James 1:15

If the wanderer is going to come back, it is because **we** are the means God uses to turn him back.

One of the side effects or consequences of sin is that it dulls our **sensitivity** to it.

**"one of you"** – It is **not** beyond any of us to **wander**, to fall, to fail, to doubt and run. 1 Corinthians 10:12

## NOTES

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