

SPIRITUAL SEARCH AND RESCUE

James 5:19-20

November Sermon Series:
All Day. Every Day.
Messages in James
November 28, 2021

What to do when a fellow believer wanders into sin

LET'S GET STARTED

Reaching out to unbelievers and to wayward Christians is part of how believers live as salt and light in the world. In the closing verses of his letter, James gives us God's counsel on seeking to reclaim those who have come near to Christ, but then turned away.

LET'S HEAR THE WORD

Charles Swindoll—There are people who feel called to a “ministry of criticism.” Their primary concern is to nail those who have strayed from the truth. They are quick to point the finger and slow to show a sensitive heart. James's counsel has nothing to do with this kind of approach.

- Search and rescue is _____ believer's responsibility.

¹⁹ My brothers, . . .

Galatians 6:1—Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.

- Search and rescue requires _____.

¹⁹ . . . if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back,

Life Application Bible Commentary—In practice, it makes no difference whether the wanderer was actually a believer or not—we are commanded to attempt to turn the person back to faith.

Quotable

Believers are responsible to help restore straying sinners to the truth. That task is often about as pleasant as trying to help a wounded dog—you're probably going to get bit no matter how gently you try to help. When you're successful, it's a moment of great joy, as when a search and rescue team announces, "We have found him and he is alive and well." Yes! But even the hope of success doesn't make the task any easier.

—Steven J. Cole

If you would like to know more

Lesson 25: God's Search and Rescue Ministry, by Steven J. Cole
(<https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-25-god's-search-and-rescue-ministry-james-519-20>)

SPIRITUAL SEARCH AND RESCUE (James 5:19-20)

- Search and rescue is supremely _____.

²⁰ remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Ezekiel 3:18-21

HOW TO DO IT

1. _____ the _____.

Paul Cedar—I believe that the strong implication of the teaching of James is that we should not be passive about a brother or sister who is erring from the truth. We should take the initiative to do something about it.

2. _____.

James 5:16—Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

3. Show _____.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8—⁴love is patient, love is kind. it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵it is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷it always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸love never fails. . . .

LET'S LIVE IT

If you would like to speak to any of our Pastors about a spiritual need in your life, here is their contact information:

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You may also discover what the Bible says about how to become a Christian by visiting the following page on our website: <http://www.crowfieldbaptist.org/salvation/>