

The Power of Converting I

“Stop Wandering”

Wandering is a common expression in the Bible.

Israel wandered in the desert for 40 years.

The book of Numbers covers the wilderness wandering experience.

Followers of Jesus can also wander.

To wander means to move about without a fixed course, aim, or goal.

To wander means to lose normal mental contact or to stray in thought, “his mind *wandered*”.

Merriam-Webster

KJV James 5:19-20 Brethren, if any of you do **err** from the truth, and one **convert** him; ²⁰ Let him know, that he which **converteth** the sinner from the **error** of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

ESV James 5:19-20 My brothers, if anyone among you **wanders** from the truth and someone brings him back, ²⁰ let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his **wandering** will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

I

Those who have lost their way are the “sick ones” of the church family.

They have wandered away.

The Greek word here (planēthē) suggests one who has missed his path and is hopelessly lost.

Have you ever missed the turn, or an exit sign while traveling?

□ “Planet” was taken from this Greek word to convey the idea that the luminaries were “wandering stars” (cf. Jude 13), not “fixed” like the rest.

II

Wandering ones need to be brought back to the fold.

Luke 15:4-7 The lost sheep wanders away.

Lost sheep wander away because of curiosity.

Curiosity is a virtue every great leader needs to have.

Too much curiosity can cause a leader to wander off the path, of their purpose and destiny.

James referred here not to evangelism but to restoration.

James referred here not to winning the soul but rescuing the soul.

The rescue and reaching action are of great significance.

A lost sheep is saved from destruction and his sins (the sins of the restored one, not the restorer) are covered as if a veil were thrown over them.

AMP 1 Peter 4:8 Above all, have fervent and unfailing love for one another, **because love covers a multitude of sins** [it overlooks unkindness and unselfishly seeks the best for others]

☐ Now the sheep can move ahead again on the path toward spiritual maturity.

III

Wandering can be interrupted by clear, concise, and compelling instruction.

☐ James has given clear instructions about how to achieve practical holiness and spiritual maturity.

His pointed exhortations were designed to stab the consciences and stir the souls of his beloved Jewish brothers.

Stand with confidence, serve with compassion, speak with care, submit with contrition, and share with concern.

A believer should be what God wants him to be, do what God wants him to do, say what God wants him to say, sense what God wants him to sense, and share what God wants him to share.

☐ Spiritual maturity involves every aspect of life.

*Rhema Christian Center
Bishop La Fayette Scales
Saturday & Sunday, December 21 & 22, 2024
9:30 a.m.*