

Chasing Strays

The Test of True Faith: Reaching the Make-Believer **James 5:19-20** Chris Mueller 5-8-2022

Introduction:

James 5:19 My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, **20** let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Two different hearts

James 2:20 faith without works is useless

James 2:26 faith without works is dead.

2 Corinthians 13:5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

2 Peter 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things you will never stumble;

Step 1 – Look for the accurate _____ of straying

19 My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth ---

20 he who turns a sinner from the error of his way.

Hebrews 6, 1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. **22** "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' **23** "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS."

Truth

John MacArthur Despite any outward profession of faith they might make, those who live in open defiance of God's Word do not belong to Him.

Step 2 – Be lovingly motivated to rescue strays from _____

20 --will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Luke 6:46 why do you call me Lord Lord and do not do what I say

Matthew 7:23 depart from me, I never knew you

Revelation 21:8 But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death

Step 3 – Embrace the _____ of you chasing after strays

19 My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back,

20 let him know that he who turns a sinner

Step 4 – Invite strays to genuine _____

19 turns him back,

20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Luke 1:16 he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God.

Acts 9:35 And all who lived at ... Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

Acts 26:18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.' 20 kept declaring ...that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance

1 Thessalonians 1:9 turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God

Step 5 – Long to see strays genuinely rescued, with a faith that _____

20 will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins

Romans 5:20 where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

Psalms 32:1 How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered!

Take Home:

A. _____ the blessings of genuine salvation

B. _____ the gospel and share the gospel with the lost and with the stray

C. Stop taking people's _____ as evidence; make fruit the issue

D. Never forget, true salvation is a _____ - _____ that few find

Matthew 7:13 "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. 14 For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Will you be - one of the _____?

Questions for Growth in Christ

1. When poorly taught Christians think about strays, what kind of language do they use, and what kind of theology is believed?
2. What is a theologically accurate description of someone who is straying from the truth?
3. Describe some of the obvious attributes of someone who strays – what kind of behavior are they known for?
4. What truths which James has already taught should be shared with someone who is straying from the truth?
5. Practice sharing the gospel with a believer who is acting like a make-believer—who thinks they're saved but is showing no fruit.
6. What main truth from this passage was the most convicting for you? What steps will you take to apply the Word?
7. List out the strays you know. Start praying for open doors to share this week.

