

Stopping the Drift (Truth Hurts)

"My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, 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." (James 5:19-20)

One of the greatest dangers in the Christian life is the deadly danger of drifting, or wandering. In these verses, James tells us that Christians need to be converted because to be converted means to *"be turned around,"* or *"to change direction."*

The one who needs to be turned around, the one who needs to change direction is the Christian who is out of the will of God because he has wandered from the Truth. Please notice that James does not say that he wanders from the church; there are even people sitting in church who have wandered from the Truth. To wander from the Truth means to neglect the Bible and all that it says. People caught in drift say things like, *"Well, the Bible doesn't really mean that. I know this is what it says about stealing or lying or adultery, but that was in the Bible days. It doesn't apply to me."*

Before you find yourself in error, know that the process of wandering from the truth happens first. **Don't miss what I'm trying to tell you: First, there's wandering. Then, there's error.** You start entertaining untruths, believing lies and before you know it, you're heading down a path and have no idea how you got there!

Verse 20 says, *"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."* This could be a rather tough thought to consider, but do you think God would allow a believer to be killed? I'm sure that God, in His grace, doesn't do this every day, but there are people in the Bible whose lives were taken because they wandered from the Truth. Ever heard about Achan? Or King Saul? Or Sampson? Or Ananias & Sapphira? If you love Christ with your whole heart and you see a fellow believer in need of being turned around, it's your duty to help them come back to the fold again.

How do we do this? 1) Pray for wisdom & tact. This will keep you from judging them & acting holier than thou. 2) Watch & wait for opportunities to lovingly engage them. 3) When the time is right, extend a hand in their direction and bring them back to the Truth. These scriptures teach us that when you bring someone back to the Truth, you've saved that soul from death and you've covered a multitude of sins.

P2R (Point 2 Remember): Love your family in Christ enough to tell them the Truth, even if it hurts.