

Faith Takes Grit: Come Again – Bringing Back Those Who Wandered From the Truth  
James 5:19-20  
Josh Weidmann, Senior Pastor

**Sermon Summary:** Bringing back Christians who have wandered far from Christ is one of the most neglected responsibilities of the church today. James challenges Christians to spend energy, prayer, and resources to bring those who have wandered from the truth back to Him. In doing so, we are able to see God's forgiveness played out in our everyday life.

Read James 5:19-20. Pray and ask God to reveal if you are wandering away from the truth in any way and who do you have in your life that is/has wandered away from the truth.

First **examine** your own ways to ensure you are not **wandering** from the truth.

- What does it mean to “stray from the truth”? In what ways **might you stray from the truth?** What **examples has James given** us, regarding straying from the truth, throughout the study of this book? Do any of those ways relate to you? If so, take time **NOW** to confess them.
- Make a list of those in scripture of those who have wandered-what **can you learn** from them? (There are many...)
- What **“fences” do you have in place** to guard your heart to protect you from straying. Make a list and share it with others. Brainstorm a list as a group.
- **Who do you have in your** life to hold you accountable in your faith-walk? Nobody? Find somebody. Call them today.

Then make every attempt to **bring back** those who are far from Christ.

- Many Christ-followers are hesitant to confront somebody who has wandered. **Why** is that? Do you know somebody who has wandered? Rubber meets the road here: What is **preventing you from speaking** to them? Brainstorm ways/techniques that you can have/start this conversation with them. Role play this out with a friend first.
- Many Christ-followers use the “excuse” of not talking to a wandering Christ-follower because we “are all sinners and fall short of the glory of God.” Is that reason valid or just an excuse?
- Make a list of individuals in your life that have “strayed from the truth”. Pray for them. Make a plan to meet with them. Share your plan with somebody who will pray for you and hold you accountable.

In doing so you will serve as God's ambassador of **forgiveness**.

- What is **THE MOST loving** thing you do for somebody?
- How can your relationships with others allow you to be God's ambassador?
- Define “ambassador”. When it comes to being an ambassador of Jesus Christ, what does that look like on a day-to-day basis? When have you been an ambassador in speaking truth into the life of somebody who has strayed from the truth and brought them to forgiveness/confession?

For next week: Read Genesis 33.