

Faith Alive!

Restore the Wandering

James 5:19-20

Exposition

Prayer from a Heart that is Right with God (vs. 16b-18)

- **God answers that is aligned with His will, His ways, and His purposes**
- **A righteous person is simply someone whose heart is right with God**
- **The righteous person gets what he wants in prayer because he wants what God wants!**
 - See Ps 37:4
 - Remember the ‘Disciple’s Prayer’ (Matt 6):
His name, His kingdom, His will first and all the rest falls into place!

Exposition – vs. 19-20

- **Spiritual truth is not simply to be *believed*, but to be *walked***
 - James 2:26; 19
Our faith is not primarily intellectual, philosophical or abstract – but existential and moral: how we live!
 - John 3:21; I John 1:6,7; Acts 9:2
A spiritual journey – ‘The Way’

Exposition – vs. 19-20

- **Spiritual truth is not simply to be *believed*, but to be *walked***
- **People in our midst are at risk of wandering**
 - *There are two ways: one of life and one of death. And there is a great difference between the two.*
 - **See James 4:4 – they are mutually exclusive. They do not cross, they diverge.**
 - *Wander = to deviate from the path, go astray*
The error of his way = ‘his wandering path’
 - **God perseveres with those who are His, but our task is to restore the wandering.**

Exposition – vs. 19-20

- **Spiritual truth is not simply to be *believed*, but to be *walked***
- **People in our midst are at risk of wandering**
- **We are called to restore and rescue them**
 - James presumes that people will wander, and that we can and will bring them back.
 - *Restore* = ‘to turn, turn around, turn back’
 - One of the ‘one-another’ ministries given to us. See Gal 6:1-3.

Personal Application

Is your faith alive, really?

- **If you know it is not...**
- **If you believe it is... how do you know?**
 - **Not because you made a decision, prayed a prayer, but because your life is, in fact, changing...**

James 1:14, 18-20, 26

- **Faith that doesn't work, is not alive.**

We are not saved by the works we do, but by grace – and saving faith always works.

We are saved by faith alone – and saving faith is never alone.

Personal Application

Is your faith alive, really?

Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it.

II Cor 13:5 - The Message