



RESTORING STRAYING SAINTS

The importance of attempting to restore the erring

(James 5:19,20)

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James 5:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, ²⁰ let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.



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- ▶ As James comes to the close of his epistle, he stresses the importance of restoring those who wander from the truth - (19,20)
- ▶ Restoring straying saints is a responsibility given to the spiritual - cf. Ga 6:1-2; 1 Th 5:14; Jude 1:20-23
- ▶ A duty too often neglected - Eze 34:4



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WHY?

WHO?

HOW?

WHAT?

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WHY? - THE DANGER IS REAL

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- Away from the truth - 19; John 8:32; 12:48; 17:17; 1 John 1:5-10
- In the way of error - 20; Gal 1:6-9; 2 Pet 2:18-22
- In the way that leads to death - 20; Rom 6:23; James 1:15

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■ **Those who returned to the Law
(Gal 1:6-9; 5:1-4)**

- ▶ Entangled again - 1
- ▶ Christ will profit nothing - 2
- ▶ Estranged from Christ - 4
- ▶ Have fallen from grace - 4

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■ **Those who return to the world
(1 Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 3:14-19)**

- ▶ Example of Israel - 10:6,11
- ▶ Delivered but fell - 10:1-5
- ▶ Became idolators, sexually immoral, rejected authority, complainers - 10:6-10

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- Jesus says such a person is in danger of more serious punishment (Lk 12:47-48)
- Peter speaks of those who “know” the truth and turn from it “the latter end is worse for them than the beginning” (2 Pe 2:20-22)

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WHY? - THE DANGER IS REAL

Hebrews 10:26–31 (NKJV)

²⁶ For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. ²⁸ Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on *the testimony of two or three witnesses.*

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WHY? - THE DANGER IS REAL

Hebrews 10:26–31 (NKJV)

²⁹ Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know Him who said, “*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*” says the Lord. And again, “*The Lord will judge His people.*” ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

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- **CUT OFF FROM CHRIST** (John 15:1-10; Gal. 5:1-4)
- **WILL NOT INHERIT LIFE** (1 Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 3:14-19)
- **WILL FACE THE WRATH OF GOD** (Heb. 10:26-31)

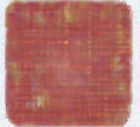
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WHO? - SOMEONE

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 **WHO IS SPIRITUAL** (Ga 6:1–3; 2 Ti 2:24–26; cf. 5:22,23)

Galatians 6:1–2 (NKJV)

¹ Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

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■ **WHO IS SPIRITUAL** (Ga 6:1–3; 2 Ti 2:24–26; cf. 5:22,23)

2 Timothy 2:24–25 (NKJV)

²⁴ And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, ²⁵ in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

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■ **WHO IS SPIRITUAL** (Ga 6:1-3; 2 Ti 2:24-26; cf. 5:22,23)

- ▶ Loving - 2 Co 2:4, 6-8; Mat 18:10
- ▶ Humble & Meek - Gal. 6:1
- ▶ Knowledgeable - 2 Ti 2:24
- ▶ Patient - 2 Ti 2:24; 2 Co 1:23-2:3
- ▶ Wise - Jude 20-23
- ▶ Courageous - Gal. 2:14-16; 2 Cor. 5

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HOW? - TO TURN ONE BACK

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■ **Wrong Methods:**

- ▶ Gossip - Backbiting - Harsh Ridicule
- ▶ Impatient Demands -
- ▶ Focusing on the symptoms rather than the root problem
- ▶ Ignoring the sin -
- ▶ Toleration of evil -
- ▶ Compromise -

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■ Instructions of Jesus - Mt 18:15-17

- “go and tell him his fault between you and him alone.
- “. . . if he will not hear, take with you one or two more,
- “. . . if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church.
- “. . . if he refuses to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

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■ Instructions of Paul - 1 Cor 5:1-13

- ▶ Collective action - 1,2,4,6,7,
- ▶ . . . be taken away from among you - 2
- ▶ When you are gathered together, . . . deliver such a one to Satan . . . that he may be saved - 4,5
- ▶ . . . purge out the old leaven - 6,7

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■ Instructions of Paul - 1 Cor 5:1-13

- ▶ Members . . . not to keep company with sexually immoral people - 9
- ▶ . . . not to keep company with . . . not even to eat with such a person - 11
- ▶ . . . “put away from yourselves the evil person.” - 13

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■ Instructions of Paul - 2 Th 3:6-15

- Withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly ... - 6
- ... note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed - 14
- ... Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother - 15

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WHAT? - SAVE A SOUL FROM DEATH

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■ **One who turns away from Christ is in jeopardy of losing their soul.**

- ▶ Do we value their soul? (Do we value ours?) Mat 16:26
- ▶ Do we love them as we should? (1 John 3:16-19; 5:16,17)
- ▶ Such efforts may be unpleasant at times, but it has the potential for great joy! (Lk 15:7; 3 John 1:4)

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- ▶ IF YOU HAVE TURNED FROM THE LORD, WE PLEAD WITH YOU TO TURN BACK TO HIM TODAY (Luke 15:11-31; 1 John 1:9,10; Heb. 3:12-13)
- ▶ IF YOU HAVE NEVER OBEYED THE GOSPEL, WHY NOT TONIGHT? (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)

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Preached December 10, 2023

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