



WEDNESDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: The Rescuing Ministry of God's People

Passage: James 5:19-20

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: Spiritual wandering rarely happens all at once. It is usually quiet and gradual, one small step at a time, until a person finds themselves farther than they ever intended to go. Often they do not even realize it, convincing themselves it is just a temporary season. But what feels temporary can quickly become a new normal. That is why the closing of James is so powerful. Rather than ending the letter with a greeting or blessing, James concludes with a burden. If someone wanders from the truth, God calls others to go after them.

I. The Reality of Wandering (Verse 19)

*"Drifting is the easiest thing in the world—because it requires no effort at all."
- Unknown*

Wanderers don't always look like wanderers. They are still around, still present, still smiling. But something inside is no longer anchored like it once was.

No one plans to drift. No one intends to end up far from where they once were. But little by little, without realizing it, they're no longer anchored to the truth like they once were.

II. The Responsibility of the Church (Verse 19)

James doesn't assign the ministry of restoration to a position; he assigns it to a believer who notices, cares, and will act on it.



WEDNESDAY EVENING
AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

When one wanders, it matters. Not just to God, but it should matter to us.

Galatians 6:1 tells us to restore in a spirit of meekness, not harshly, not pridefully, but with humility and care.

You cannot rescue someone from a distance. You have to reach out, check in, and be present.

III. The Reward of Restoration (Verse 20)

Sin kills joy and peace and damages relationships. It weakens testimony. It affects everything it touches. But when someone is restored, that damage is stopped.

One wrong step often leads to another. But when someone turns back, that chain reaction is broken.

“If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies.” - Charles Spurgeon

Conclusion: The truth is this passage is not just meant to inform us, but to move us. People are wandering, and God has called us to care enough to notice and to act. That may mean reaching out, restoring gently, or even examining our own hearts to make sure we are still anchored in the truth. We cannot do this in our own strength, so we must ask God to give us eyes to see, hearts that care, and courage to respond.



WEDNESDAY EVENING
AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Prayer Focus for Tonight:

1. Pray for Spiritual Awareness

Ask God to open your eyes and help you recognize those who may be drifting spiritually.

2. Pray for a Burdened Heart

Ask God to give you His compassion for people.

3. Pray for Courage

Ask God to help you step in, to reach out, and to speak truth in love.

4. Pray for Specific People

Bring names before the Lord.

Ask God to work in the lives of the people He places on your heart, and ask Him to use you if He chooses.