

Introduction: When Christians "Go Astray"

¹² *There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.*

Proverbs 14:12 (NIV)

So what do you do when someone you know...

1. Morally falls?
2. Turns away from Christ?
3. Deserts their spouse?
4. Show signs of spiritually drifting?

God's plan for spiritual healing:

¹⁹My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, ²⁰remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

James 5:19-20 (NIV)

The Problem: "Wandering from the Truth"

The Solution: "Bringing them back to God"

BUT HOW?

God's two-part strategy for restoration:

1. _____ for them.
2. Care enough to _____!

¹Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. ²Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:1-2 (NIV)

Four keys to confronting in love:

1. Prerequisite - _____ Maturity
2. Aim - _____
3. Attitude - _____
4. Action - _____ Give Up!

The Result = _____ and _____.

Conclusion: A word to the "wandering"

Luke 15

Three lies you must refuse to believe:

1. I'll come home later.
2. I'm too far gone.
3. God could never accept me now.

Discussion Questions:

1. To whom is this passage addressed?
2. Why are most of us tentative or even unwilling to confront fellow believers who have wandered from the truth?
3. What specific steps are we to take? What is essential in our attitudes and motives? Why is this so crucial?
4. Who do you know and love who has wandered from the truth?
5. What step would God have you take to promote spiritual healing?