

**JAMES: SHOE LEATHER GOSPEL**  
**SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY**  
"Faith and a Straying Christian"  
James 5: 19-20  
Dr. Josh Wilson

The overall objective of the letter of James is to challenge professing Christians of whether their faith is real or fake.....living or dead. Thus, the call throughout the letter is to:

- Examine your f\_\_\_\_\_
- Ensure that your faith is r\_\_\_\_\_ and you're not being deceived by Satan with a false salvation
- Use a series of tests laid out in the letter to evaluate your faith by
  - a. Proper response to trials and temptations (1 and 5)
  - b. Proper response to the Word of God (1)
  - c. Response to people from various social classes leading to righteous deeds (2)
  - d. Proper speech, wisdom, and not being a friend of the world (3)
  - e. Humility and submission to God's will (4)
  - f. Proper Use of Money (5)

NOW....James shifts to one concluding subject and thought in the last two verses of the letter.

**Overview of James Chapter 5: 13-20:**

1. Prayer for the Suffering (v.13)
2. Prayer for the Sick (v.14-15)
3. Prayer for the Saints (v.16)
4. Prayer for the S\_\_\_\_\_ (vv.19-20)

**Two Common Interpretations Exists of the "Sinner" is verses 19-20:**

1. A "b\_\_\_\_\_" or "carnal" saved Christian; a Christian who has wandered away from truth and is living a lifestyle inconsistent with what they profess to believe
2. A person who identifies with the church but has dead, nonsaving faith...U\_\_\_\_\_ person who is consistently inside the Church.

"They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us." 1 John 2: 19

**Two General Truths:**

1. **Christian can have seasons in their life when they stray from the t\_\_\_\_\_.**
  - Sometimes, it's a "*crisis of faith*" situation:
    - sudden loss of a loved one
    - deep marriage or child struggle
    - deep suffering going on in their life behind the scenes

entangled by sin and can't break free...spiritually weak but won't cry out for help

- **A true Christian doesn't lose \_\_\_\_\_ salvation during these straying seasons**
  - Our salvation is secure because of what Jesus Christ has done on our behalf that we have received by faith..God will not kick His true children out of His family. We don't earn salvation and we don't keep our salvation secure either.
- **A true Christian loses close fellowship \_\_\_\_\_ with the Lord though as they are in a season of drifting and wandering away.**

**2. A professing Christian who remains in a straying season as the consistent pattern and habit of their life is in a dangerous situation; thus, this person has reason to truly repent \_\_\_\_\_ if he or she has experienced true salvation at all.**

- For a true Christian, the conviction of the Holy Spirit and discipline of the Lord in his or her life will lead us to repent and return to the Lord.

- If someone stays in a "backslidden" condition, it gives indication they were never truly saved in the first place.

### **GETTING INTO THE TEXT...**

*"If one of you should wander from the truth" (v.19)*

- A Christian inside the church who is moving away from Christ rather than toward Him
- Symptoms of a "Backslider": one who is "wandering from the truth of God"
  1. Going the wrong way spiritually...regressing rather than progressing
  2. Losing fervor or passion for the Lord: growing cold toward Christ
  3. Dropping out of close \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Walking away from a ministry or a family
  5. Falling back into old habits \_\_\_\_\_ of a lost person
  6. Slow, gradual drifting away from the things of God

### **What's a Christian's responsibility to another "backsliding" Christian?**

1. Go to the Lord first in prayer \_\_\_\_\_ for them daily.

2. Go to the "backsliding" Christian in love

**When?** As soon as you begin noticing the drifting away...Don't wait.

Multiple times if necessary

**How?** With an attitude of love to see them repent and return to the Lord

**What?** Speak to them in truth \_\_\_\_\_ and grace \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus came from the Father "full of grace and truth" Jn 1: 14

All truth and no grace = harsh, judgmental,

All grace and no truth= Unloving

Ex. Bro. Josh's Friend

**Why?** "save them from death"

The ultimate end of a consistent life of backsliding is eternal death in hell forever. Never truly saved. Never truly walked with the Lord.

Ex. Judas and Demas

