

Getting Involved - James 5:19 – 20

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.

The Epistle of James ends by asking believers to get involved in the very reason that Jesus came to the earth. Luke 19:10 states, "...for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." We should care enough to engage in carrying out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18–20; Mark 16:15–18) alongside the Captain of our Salvation, Jesus Christ.

James exhorts Christians to go out and search and rescue believers who have lost their way, but we must do so with great wisdom and discernment to prevent wounding people.

There is wisdom in the multitude of counsellors (Proverbs 11:15), so you should probably speak to and pray with a mature believer before making an approach. Below are some guidelines to help you 'Get Involved':

1. **Correct Knowledge**

Do you have correct knowledge of someone who has strayed from the Christian pathway? It is important not to make assumptions or jump to conclusions.

God has given you knowledge, so that as a minimum you would pray for the lost person, as well as for you to use that knowledge to point that person back to the Jesus, if given the opportunity.

2. **Do you have a relationship with that person?**

Restoration requires relationship. If there is no relationship the person may get wounded in the restoration process. Therefore, if you have certain knowledge, but don't have a relationship, draw back from making an approach and prayerfully consider someone who does have a relationship; perhaps God wants to use someone else to bring restoration.

3. **Arm yourselves with Scriptural support**

Even Christians disagree on various issues and they do so based on Scriptural truth. Therefore, aim to discuss rather argue or rebuke. Make sure you can show someone from the Scripture how they have strayed or why what they are doing is wrong.

4. **Choose the right time**

When Jesus taught about speaking to someone who has offended you, He said you should go to them privately. That is good advice here as well. Anytime we have to talk to someone about something sensitive we should do it privately in person (not by phone, email, etc.). Also, note that Jesus sent His disciples out in pairs. Where possible this should be observed.

5. **Your motivating factor must be a godly, pure restorative love**

If you don't really care, or there is some lesser motive, i.e., to call someone out, or just to get into their business, then don't go! Pray and let God use someone else. Paul wrote, "Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently (Galatians 6:1). This is such wise counsel. We should always meet people in a spirit of love and humility.

Those who are wise shall shine, Like the brightness of the firmament,
And those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever (Daniel 12:3).

PROCLAMATION

Father, let my light shine before others, so that they may see Your good works and give glory to You.

Matthew 5:16

May the passion of my heart and my constant prayer to You be for people to be saved.

Romans 10:1

In Jesus name, I pray for my brothers and sisters in Christ, that words may be given to them to open their mouths boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel to those who are lost.

Ephesians 6:19

Father, help me to wisely make the most of every opportunity to share the Gospel, and lead other Christians into the lives of the unbelievers that I am praying for.

You are God that gives growth and increase!

1 Corinthians 3:6

Amen.