

Search and RESCUE ~ James 5:16-20

→ Scripture Reading James 5:16-20

INTRODUCTION

Galatians 6:2 (NIV) Carry each other's BURDENS, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.



Powerful and PASSIONATE Prayer ~ James 5:16-18

¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. ...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

The RIGHTEOUS man is the one who is committed to doing God's will and to cultivating a relationship with God. NIVAC

The prayer of a man whose heart is right with God works wonders. MacDonald

¹⁷ Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

Deuteronomy 11:16-17 (NIV) Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them. ¹⁷ Then the LORD's anger will burn against you, and HE will shut the heavens so that it will NOT RAIN and the ground will yield NO produce...

¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

1 Kings 18:42 (NIV) ...Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees.

IMPLICATIONS

→ Elijah is just LIKE us - and yet he PRAYED

The prayer of a man whose heart is right with God works wonders. MacDonald

→ God answered Elijah's prayer because he was PRAYING for what God wanted

The Example Elijah set... (1 Kings 18)

- RIGHT with God
- Stood up AGAINST Evil
- NEVER Quit
- Prayers were Passionate and Effective

Isaiah 45:5 (NIV) I am the LORD, and there is NO OTHER; apart from ME there is NO God.

Pursuing ALL who STRAY ~ James 5:19-20

James summarizes what he has taught about the misuse of the tongue, jealousy, seeking social status at the expense of other believers, being quarrelsome, false teaching concerning faith and works... and he showed that ALL these were symptoms of WANDERING from the TRUTH. NIVAC

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

1 Corinthians 11:27, 30 (NIV) ...whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ...³⁰ That is why **many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.**

Christians have the opportunity and the responsibility to care for one another through the task of loving doctrinal and moral correction. The theme here is not evangelism, but the loving care of the Christian community. NIVAC

APPLICATION

¹⁹ ... if one of you should WANDER from the TRUTH and **SOMEONE** should **bring him back**,

Galatians 6:1 (ESV) Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should RESTORE him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Who should RESTORE the FALLEN?

- GROWING in your Faith
- PURSUE those that Wander Away
- Seek to RESTORE
- Do Not become ARROGANT

TAKE AWAY ??

¹⁹ My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and **SOMEONE** should bring him back,

James's instructions concerning prayer, doctrine, and divisions within the church **are ...instructions to the WHOLE community.** We are called to seek ways to be faithful to this teaching. NIVAC

1 Peter 2:24-25 (NIV) He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have RETURNED to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

HELP each other RETURN to OUR Shepherd...

- Invest in RELATIONSHIPS
- SUPPORT each other
- Do not IGNORE Sin
- Pray EARNESTLY For Others
- ENCOURAGE Others