

RESCUE OPERATION DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JAMES 5:19-20

- 1 **Wandering away from the faith may involve several of the following problems: a sin trap that can't seem to be overcome, persuasive false teaching/teachers, isolation because of fear, confusion about who the real enemy is, focusing on hypocritical Christians, or willful choices to please self instead of God.**

⚙️ *What kinds of wanderers have you encountered, or what kind of wanderer have you been?*

✏️ *Regardless of the reason a person wanders away from God and the community of faith, what is the responsibility of believers when this happens?*

- 2 **Many Christians avoid trying to restore a sinning believer because confrontation makes them uncomfortable.**

⚙️ *Why does confrontation feel so difficult in our culture? Is our apprehension valid – why or why not?*

🗨️ *How can you know whether just to pray or when it is time to talk with a sinning person?*

- 3 **Some Christians use their own shortcomings as an excuse for not talking to another believer about his sin.** Is this valid? How should it be addressed?

- 4 **You're on God's "Search and Rescue Team."** Sometimes we may have a heart to help others but we are unsure of how to go about it. Here are your specific instructions:

⚙️ *Who should go? If you have knowledge of the sin and you have a relationship with the person, you're it! Truth is most often received through loving relationships.*

⚙️ *Get the facts. Hearsay is not good material for confrontation.*

⚙️ *Check your own heart. "Let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall" (1 Cor. 10:12). Your motive should be to restore the straying one, not to put him in his place or to prove that you're right and he's wrong. Make sure that you are under the control of the Holy Spirit and displaying the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:16, 22-23; 6:1).*

