

Spirituality 911

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.
Hebrews 3:13 (NIV)

Let the church be the church (Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:24-25)

We live in a different world

The church in action

Principles of the wanderer (It’s always **the other guy**)

The wanderer is not necessarily open to challenge; when he wanders,

If his **first encounter** with someone is confrontation, it may be the **last encounter** he permits.

Favorable response will probably come when a person has been a part of a fellowship where he or she is

- **Genuinely known**
- **Lovingly supported**
- **And honestly challenged**

**Some Things to Think About
For the week of July 5, 2015**

Who's the someone who brings him back? (It may not be who you think)

Someone who

- **Recognizes their wandering** before it's too late
- **Cares that they are wandering**
- **Is willing to take a risk to win them back**

Who it probably isn't

Some important principles:

Bringing them back is more likely if challenge

- Comes **sooner** rather than **later**.
- Comes from **a trusted friend** rather than **an unfamiliar authority**
- Comes from a **history of love and support** rather than **no history at all** or **a history of criticism and judgment**

1. On Sunday Jim talked about the encouragement of Hebrews 3:12-13 and Hebrews 10:24-25. What elements does the author indicate are important in the process of encouragement?

What are the things that people are encouraged to in these passages?

2. Read Galatians 6:1-2. Paul talks about correcting someone, and bearing one another's burdens in back-to-back verses. How do you think these two concepts are related?

3. In your experience, what are the things that have caused people you know to wander away, or just give up on God?

If you know of a success story where someone intervened and brought time back, take a moment to thank God for the one who took the risk, and the one who returned. As James says, the rewards are tremendous.