

Have I wandered away from God?



1 Peter 2:25

Introduction



- **Illustration of spiritual wandering**
- **List we have created and will be praying over this afternoon**
- **Language of General Epistles to express this**
- **What does it mean to stand firm?**

Introduction

- **Why this is a concern in Peter's day**
- **What does it tell us about our relationship to God?**
- **Yes, if...**



Isaiah 53 imagery: two sheep

- **Context of Isaiah 53**
- **We have gone astray**
- **Jesus is slaughtered sheep**



We are not finished with sin

- To be finished with something
- Having been dead to sins
- Romans 6 imagery here!
- He bore our sins so that...



We cannot live a good life this way



- **Good life—live for righteousness**
- **Whoever would love life and see good days**
- **Wandering is never good**
- **Illustration of camper & hikers**

What does it mean to wander?



- **1:2**—no longer obedient to Jesus
- **1:3**—relinquish living hope
- **1:6**—allow suffering of grief to keep us from rejoicing
- **1:9**—forget about receiving the end result of our faith—salvation of our souls!

What does it mean to wander?

- **1:13**—minds no longer spiritually alert and fully sober
- **1:14**—conform to evil desires wherein we once lived in ignorance
- **1:16**—no longer being holy in all we do (our lives no longer set aside for God's use; rather, we set them aside for our own use!)
- **1:17**—quit calling on the Heavenly Father (no longer pray)



What does it mean to wander?



- **1:18**—go back to empty way of life handed down from forefathers
- **1:22**—no longer have sincere love for each other, and no longer capable of loving one another deeply from the heart.
- **2:1**—no longer rid ourselves of all malice, and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.
- **2:2**—no longer crave pure spiritual milk, so that you may grow up in your salvation.

What does it mean to wander?



- **2:5**—we as a living stone, no longer want to be built into a spiritual house (reject being part of God’s community!)
- **2:8**—stumble because we disobey the message
- **2:9**—no longer care about being God’s special possession
- **2:10**—reject God’s mercy, and no longer claim to be one of His people

What does it mean to wander?



- **2:11**—no longer abstain from sinful desires that wage war against your soul.
- **2:12**—no longer care about our good deeds being a witness for pagans.
- **2:16**—using your freedom in Christ as a cover-up for evil
- **2:17**—Do not Show proper respect to everyone

What does it mean to wander?

- **2:17**—do not love the family of believers
- **2:17**—do not fear God
- **2:17**—do not honor the civil authorities and government



We can return!



- **1 Peter 3:11**, “They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.”
- We can become obedient of heart again
- No longer wander, but have purpose and direction!
- Shepherd & Guardian of our souls!

Conclusion



- **Toughest** personal question ever!
- Am I not **finished** with sinning as a way of life?
- Has my life been “**no good?**”
- Am I **guilty** of wandering according to Peter?
- Am I **ready** to return?