

The Danger Of Being Double-Minded

*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; **he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.***
James 1:8

Introduction

- A. The Fall of man and our own sin has brought great harm, destruction, and distortion to the **kind of a person we are**. Because of sin we are **more than prone to sin -- we are enslaved**. John 8:34
- B. The Bible makes use of powerful and forceful words to emphasis this truth.

*So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles (unsaved) do, in **the futility of their thinking**. They are **darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God** because of the **ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more ...** You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old self, which is corrupted by its deceitful desires.***
Eph 4:17-19,22

I. The Biblical Content for Understanding Double-Mindedness.

- A. Every person is born into the world lost, separated from God, guilty, unrighteous, under divine judgment, owned by the Devil, and enslaved to Satan, sin, error, the world, and themselves. Luke 19:10; Rom 3:10,23; John 3:18,36; 8:44; Eph 2:2,3; James 1:8; 4:8.
- B. When one chooses to repent and believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord the power of God produces a dramatic change -- a reversal -- of one's relationship with God and also of one's inner character. Rom 5:1,6-11; 8:1; II Cor 5:17; 6:16-18; Eph 1:13,14; 2:13; Col 1:12-14.
- C. Because all of God's redemptive grace has not been applied to us in a practical way (we are not glorified and in Heaven), all believers still have many mental, volitional, emotional, physical, and social "patterns of action" that are due to error and sin. The Bible calls this our "body of sin" (Rom 6:6); "sinful nature" (Rom 7:18) "the law of sin at work within my members" (Rom 7:23).
- D. These sinful patterns that are still present in our life can be very powerful, motivating, and if we choose to live by them, very sinful. The results can only be bondage, weakness, vulnerability to Satan, worldliness, spiritual barrenness, deception, and divine chastisement. We are told to recognize these sinful patterns in our life and deal with them. Note these terms "I beat my body and make it my slave" I Cor 9:27; "put off" (Eph 4:22); "put to death" (Col 3:5); "rid yourselves" (Col 3:8).
- E. The "double-minded man" is one who, in disobedience, **still lives a self-centered life**.

II. The Divine Provision for Double-Mindedness.

A. Jesus Christ died to set us free from our sin.

*For we know that our old self (all we were before salvation) was crucified with him so that the body of sin (sinful nature, patterns of error) **might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.** Rom 6:6*

B. Jesus Christ was resurrected to enable us to live in holiness.

*We were therefore buried with him through baptism (Holy Spirit baptism at salvation) into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, **we too may live a new life.** Rom 6:4*

C. Jesus Christ invites us to surrender to Him so He can set us free.

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to **offer your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God -- which is your spiritual worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind** (understanding the meaning of these truths in practice). **Then** you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- his good, pleasing and perfect will. Rom 12:1,2*

III. The Importance of Giving Up Our Double-Mindedness.

A. Double-mindedness is simply preferring **ourselves**, giving **ourselves** first place, making **our** desires and ideas the first priority. This is **the most serious kind of idolatry**. It is saying to God "I am more important than You. My will is better than Yours. I prefer my sin and myself to You."

B. It is very easy for a believer to become a "religious double-minded person."

1. Such a person will want God and His will -- but for self-centered reasons.

2. It is a way of "**using God**" to become free from sin (they don't want God they simply want freedom, or power, or gifts, or healing, or spiritual success, or help for the family, or help for the business). James tells us that we can pray and pray and not receive because we ask with "wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures" (4:3).

C. The only one who can help us is the Lord Himself. Only He knows our hearts. John 15:5

1. We must surrender to Him, without reservation, and ask Him to change us **no matter what the cost or the result**. We must give up **ourselves**.

2. To continue as an idolater, preferring ourselves and way of life, to God and His will is a most dangerous way of living. The result can only be spiritual disaster for ourselves, great harm to those about us, and perhaps the chastisement of death. I Cor 11:30; I John 5:16

Victor Matthews

