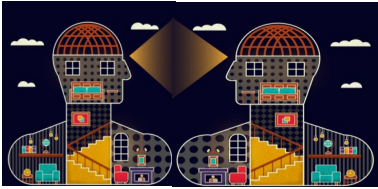


James 1:8 Double Mindedness



Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete; not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts, is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

Much of how we think and respond to emotional stimulus is through DNA (personality), imprint of conditioning, life experiences, and faulty thinking. "Once burned always burned" does not apply to Christians. God is the God of love, positive change, strength, fulfillment, fruitfulness, abundance, happiness, and purpose. Isaiah 43:19 Behold I do a new thing.

Our emotions drive our thought life. Our thought life can be either positive or negative. When we expect the worse, that's what we get. When we practice expecting the best that's what we get.

Don't allow the past to define who you are in the NOW. We are not defined by our past, but we are defined by Christ who has already paid the price for everything we endure. Don't concentrate on the negative things. As a man thinks in his heart, so is he. Prov. 23:7. You need to defang the devil's attempt to keep you in bondage. Put on the armor of God. Eph. 6 10:18

Don't mentally or emotionally be in agreement with Satan. You can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens you and heals you! Phil. 4:13. Satan has no power over us other than what we choose to allow. He comes to us as an angel of light 2Cor. 11:14 When you take positive steps you *will* overcome! You can't win when you are torn between two minds.

Lets do some spring house cleaning!

You cant win when you are in control. We have to throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles us. Clean out your closet. Heb. 12 1:3.

Your past

Your disappointments

Your insecurities

Your anger

Your fears

Your guilt

Your sins

Your loneliness

The Refuge

Question: "What does it mean to be double-minded (James 1:8; 4:8)?"

Answer: The term *double-minded* comes from the Greek word *dipsuchos*, meaning "a person with two minds or souls." It's interesting that this word appears only in the book of James (James 1:8;4:8). Bible scholars conclude that James might have coined this word. To grasp the full meaning of this word, it is best to understand how it is used within its context.

James writes of the doubting person that he 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 1:6–8). A doubter is a double-minded person. Jesus had in mind such a person when He spoke of the one who tries to serve two masters (Matthew 6:24). As such, he is "unstable," which comes from a Greek word meaning "unsteady, wavering, in both his character and feelings."

A double-minded person is restless and confused in his thoughts, his actions, and his behavior. Such a person is always in conflict with himself. One torn by such inner conflict can never lean with confidence on God and His gracious promises. Correspondingly, the term *unstable* is analogous to a drunken man unable to walk a straight line, swaying one way, then another. He has no defined direction and as a result doesn't get anywhere. Such a person is "unstable in all he does."

Those who are double-minded do not have the faith spoken of in Hebrews 11:1,3: "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible." We cannot be both "certain" and doubting, as is the double-minded person. One part of his mind is sure of something, while the other part doubts. It brings to mind the "pushmi-pullyu" of the Dr. Doolittle stories, an animal with a head at either end of its body and which was constantly trying to walk in two directions at once. Such is the double-minded man.

God will not grant His blessings upon those who are double-minded. As Jesus pointedly declared, "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other" (Matthew 6:24). God and the things of this world are of such opposite natures that it is impossible to love either one completely without hating the other. Those who try to love both will become unstable in all their ways. God is a jealous God (Exodus 34:14) and will not accept a service that is divided with Satan.

List some of the things that you have been double minded about:

The Joy of the Lord is your strength. Neh. 8:10