

THE WAY OF THE DOUBLE MINDED

27 January 2023

James 1:8

“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

Similar terms: Two-faced, speaking with a forked tongue, of two opinions, wavering, undecided, lacking faith, unfocused, inconsistent, unreliable.

PHYSICALLY DOUBLE MINDED

A lack of responsibility Even if they want to do right, their lack of responsibility prevents them from accomplishing anything.

Inability to stay focused on life goals. Their wavering ways and lack of focus prevents them from setting and reaching any lifetime goals.

A lack of dependability

Confused, lacking direction

Shallow convictions No depth, not firm, easily changed.

Confusion over truth Easily deceived *“like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.”*

Easy prey for Satan 2 Corinthians 4:3-4.

1 Timothy 3:3 **Trucebreakers:** their word is worthless. They may sign the paper, but it’s not binding.
Traitors: changing sides randomly.
Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God: Their pleasures prevent them from being able to focus on loving God.
Never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

SPIRITUALLY DOUBLE MINDED

JONAH—he wanted to be a prophet, but his own preferences outweighed his desire to obey God.

BALAAM—he wanted to be a prophet, but his desire for honor, prestige and riches (Jude 11) outweighed his desire to obey God.

ISRAEL—They knew the true God and His Law, but their desire to be like the other nations (1 Sam 8:5) outweighed their desire to obey God.

IT IS A WAY OF DANGER

Most accidents occur at a point of change. A changeable mind is a danger to family, career, and future. It will cause you to waste your whole life.

Prov. 24:21 *“Meddle not with them that are given to change.”*

Jer. 2:36 *“Why gaddest (move, roam) thou about so much to change thy way?”*

Hos. 6:4 *“Your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew, it goeth away.”* This is true of Christians who quickly grow tired of serving the Lord and quit.

Eph 4:14 *“Henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine...”* New doctrines, new ministry techniques, new bibles, etc.

Heb 13:9 *“Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines...be established...”*

THEY WASTE THE LOVE OF GOD

John 3:16 The double-minded waste God's great love by never being able to receive Christ and accept the love of God. They can't make up their mind whether or not to believe.

THEY WASTE THE WORK OF CHRIST

Isa. 53:3-6 Jesus Christ suffered greatly to pay for our sins. The double-minded person can't make up their mind whether to receive what God did for them, thereby wasting Christ's perfect work.

- They know what they should do, they know what Christ did, they know they can become a son of God (John 1:12) if they believe, but they are unstable, and therefore, unable to focus on the wonderful work of Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus Christ died for them, but if a person doesn't apply His death to their account, it becomes wasted.

THEY WASTE THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

God instructs His people through the ministry of the church. A double-minded person will never make up their mind to do what is right and commit themselves to following God's instructions as proclaimed in the church. That is how they waste all of the work done in "**the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth**" (1 Tim. 3:15).

THEY ARE WASTING THEIR LIVES

The double-minded are letting opportunities go by the wayside. They will get to the end of their lives and not be able to do what they could have done today.

THEY ARE UNGRATEFUL

Their focus is on the things they don't have, which leads to unhappiness. The result is that they are ungrateful for what God has done for them.

THE CURE

Heb 12:1-2 The cure for double-mindedness is to keep your focus on Jesus Christ.

- Look to Him as your example to live by.
 - Look to Him as your example to walk by.
 - Look to Him as the example to your value system; knowing what is right and wrong.
 - Stop looking for opportunities, for something new, something different. It will only lead you to be discontent.
 - Paul was content in every state that he found himself (Php 4:11) because his focus was always on Jesus Christ. That is the cure for double-mindedness and instability.
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