

DOUBLE-MINDEDNESS (#1)

Request: Today's request comes from our church web site: "Doubt is a battle that rages in me almost daily. I hate that I doubt! I want to get beyond this in my Christian life. I want and need victory in this matter but I don't know how to get it. Can you help me?"

James gives insight into this problem and offers a spiritual help in our lesson text. Jms.1:5-8 consists of three Greek sentences (Jms.5, 6, and 7-8).

In the first two sentences, James emphasizes an effective prayer life as an important first step to spiritually resolving doubts in CWL. Aiteo is bringing our needs to God our Father in prayer (Heb.4:16).

- (Jms.1:5) **ask** (aiteo / p.a.impv / v3ps) **if you lack** (Sophia) **wisdom** [divine practical thinking]
- (Jms.1:6) **ask** (aiteo / p.a.impv / v3ps) **if you are filled with** (diakrino / p.m.ptc / nsm) **doubt**

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil.4:6-7)

Why? Because God can now begin to work on your problem - within your self awareness.

In the third sentence, James emphasizes that our expectations are attached to either our old man cosmos diabolicus thinking (OMCD) or our new man divine viewpoint thinking (NMDV) => double-mindedness.

- Jms.1:7-8 – **expect** (oiomai / p.m.impv / 3ps) - Oiomai is translated in the English as suppose, expect, or imagine. Oiomai refers to expectations divorced from the reality of wisdom (Sophia).

"For (inferential conjunction) [picture of life out of control] a sea driven and tossed by the wind (Jms.1:6) let not that man (ekeinos anthropos) [OM] expect that (hoti) [declarative] he will receive (lambano / f.m.ind / 3ps) anything from (para+abl. of source) the Lord." (Jms.1:7)

James says that the problem of doubt is like a terrible storm in the life of a Believer. "the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind." Doubt is a clue to double-mindedness (dipsuchos / double soul'd / flopping back and forth between OMCD and NMDV).

We will study four aspects of correcting Double-Minded Thinking in the CWL.
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1. The reason prayer is an essential first step in correcting double-mindedness is because it shows that you are at home and open to dealing with it. We know that God is always at home.

Prayer places this need on the front burner of your awareness. Now God is able to bring information from so many sources to your life that might have missed if it had not been for prayer awareness.

James reminds us that faith without doubt is the key to getting prayers answered. "Let him ask in (en+loc of accompanying) faith (pistis) without doubt." (Jms.1:6; Rom.10:17; 1 John 5:14-15)

But if doubt also dominates your prayer life, you have a double-minded (dipsuchos) problem that must be corrected (Jms.1:7-8).

2. James describes the double-minded Believer (aner / spiritual maturity) as unstable (akatastatos / a-kata-histemi / not able to stand on one single norm and standard) in all his ways.

Before we examine the double-minded soul (dipsuchos), we will study five other similar Greek words.

- Apsuchos without soul (1 Cor.14:7)
- Sumpsuchos joint soul (Phil.2:2)
- Eupsuchos good soul (Phil.2:19)
- Isopsuchos equal soul (Phil.2:20)
- Oligopsuchos small soul (1 Thess.5:4)

3. A double-minded Believer is in conflict between OMCD and NMDV thinking regarding truths learned from the word of God

“For let not that (ekeinos) man (anthropos) think (oiomai) that he shall receive anything of the Lord.” (Jms.1:7)

This is an exciting time from the divine side of the plan in your life. As a spiritually advancing believer, God wants you to learn how to put off OMCD thinking and to put on (NMDV) thinking. (Eph.4:22-24; Rom.12:2).

When Job went through it, he held unto these two important Scriptures. “Though He slay me, I will hope in Him. Nevertheless I will argue my ways before Him.” (Job 13:15) **and** “And as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth.” (Job 19:25)

Job’s point is that it can be a difficult spiritual struggle from the human side of the plan of God.

4. A double-minded conflict does not become issue until a Believer reaches spiritual maturity (Eph.4:11-14; Rom.8:29).

It is not an issue to a baby Believer who is struggling with salvation and eternal life issues (1 Pet.2:2; Heb.5:13) [Doctrine of eternal life].

It is not an issue to an immature Believer who is struggling with carnality and walking by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Cor.3:1-3, Gal.5:16-17) [doctrine of spirituality].

It becomes an issue to the spiritually mature Believer who learns that God wants him to walk in step with Him by faith (2 Cor.5:7; Heb.5:14) [doctrine of faith cycle].

- It is important that you know that you have reached a stage of spiritual growth where God wants to take you to a different level of intimacy with Him. But in order to do this He has to get you out of double-mindedness OMCD thinking to **single-mindedness** (haplotes) **NMDV thinking (2 Cor.11:3; Eph.6:5; Col.3:22)**.

James says that the double-minded Believer **lacks** (leipo / p.p.ind) [the “why can’t I?”] **wisdom** (Sophia). Sophia is the ability to work the faith cycle to completion no matter what (Rom.4:21) [NMDV faith, not OMCD doubt]. Don’t make the mistake of equating the accumulation of knowledge with wisdom.

- One famous case study for double-mindedness is Doubting Thomas (John 20:24-29)