

## A DOUBLE-MINDED BELIEVER

We have learned from James.1:1-4 that the early Jerusalem Church was being severely persecuted “for the sake of Christ (Undeserved Suffering) (U/S).”

Their Undeserved suffering (U/S) didn’t come as a shock:

(Phil.1:29) “For to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to so suffer of His sake.”

What did come as a shock was the prolonged period of this suffering – “Dispersed abroad.” (Jas.1:1)

Following the crucifixion of Jesus, persecution against the church began in (Acts 4:1-4, 17, 21). It became severe and prolonged through-out the Book of Acts.

- Stephen was murdered in (Acts 7:54-60)
- James, the brother of John, was murder in (Acts 12:1-4)

It occurred about the time of the writing of the Book of James and Paul’s first missionary trip.

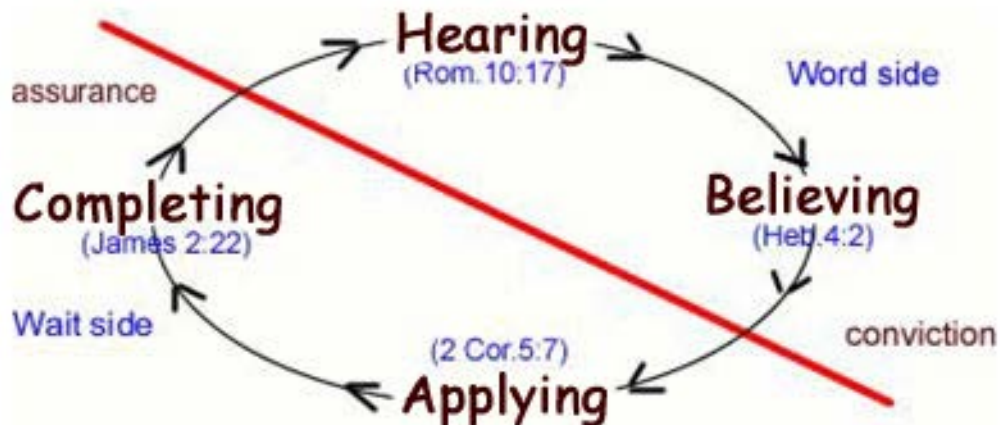
**This lesson will study four aspects of the Double-minded Believer.**

### **1. These believers were struggling with the faith cycle during this period of prolonged severe persecution (U/S).**

James referred it as:” when you encounter various trials” and “knowing that the test of your faith.” (Jas.1:2-3)

They were struggling with the **application-completion side of faith cycle:**

(Jas.1:6) “But he must ask in faith without doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.”



## 2. The faith cycle was broken by doubt (diakrino) (Jas.1:6) [used twice].

Doubt is the result of a conflict with the applying-completing / faith-rest side of the faith cycle.

The prolonged period of suffering has caused some believers to doubt the promises of God. James is encouraging them, during their suffering to become single-minded in their faith. (Divine Viewpoint thinking).

(2 Cor.11:3) “But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived **Eve** by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity (haplotēs) [singled-minded] **and purity of devotion to Christ.**” (Eph.6:5)

## 3. James instructs those suffering in their faith under U/S to pray for wisdom (Sophia).

**Wisdom:** The practical application of Categorical Bible Doctrine (CBD) applied to human experience. (Jas.1:5-6) “if” (1<sup>st</sup> class condition = and you do) lack wisdom.

But James instructs us to pray for wisdom “in faith without doubting (Jas.1:6).”

**Note the divine promise given to the suffering believer:**

(Jas.1:5) “God gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

**Note the divine warning given to the suffering believer:**

(Jas.1:6-7 “But he **must ask (aiteo/ p.a. impv) in faith without doubting**, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind (out of control). For that man **ought not to expect (oionai/ p.m. impv) [to imagine]** that he will receive anything from the Lord.”

**Principle:** False assumptions lead to false interpretations, leading to false expectations (doubts), which lead to false applications (the break-down of the faith cycle).

## 4. James called this being double-minded

(Jas.1:8) “**a double-minded (dipsuchos) (Jas.4:8) man, unstable (akatastatos) in all his ways.**”  
(NOTE: no verb)

This failure prevents a believer from “**Counting (hegeomai/ a.m. impv) it all joy.**” (Phil.2:25-30)  
[Epaphroditus]

**Divine view (DV) point thinking** in the exercise of the faith cycle gives stability in the Christian way of Life) (Isa.33:6).

(1 Cor.7:35) “to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.” (Heb.11:11) [Sarah]

(Rom.12:2) “And do not be conformed to the world (Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus) [worldly thinking] to this world but be transformed (New Man Divine Viewpoint Thinking) by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”