

THE DOUBLE-MINDED MAN IS UNSTABLE IN ALL HIS WAYS

James 1:8

James 1:5-8 (ESV) ⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, **with no doubting**, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸**he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.**

I. Classic biblical examples

Matthew 6:24 (ESV) ²⁴“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Revelation 3:15-16 (ESV) ¹⁵“I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

1 Kings 18:20-21 (ESV) ²⁰So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel. ²¹And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” And the people did not answer him a word.

Joshua 24:15 (ESV) ¹⁵And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Joshua 24:19-20 (ESV) ¹⁹But Joshua said to the people, “**You are not able to serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God**; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. ²⁰If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.”

II. God’s jealousy and double-mindedness (He Demands Faithfulness)

James 4:3-10 (ESV) ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “**He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us**”? ⁶But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, ⁶“God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” ⁷**Submit yourselves** therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. **Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.** ⁹Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰**Humble yourselves** before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Exodus 34:13-14 (ESV) ¹³You shall tear down their altars and break their pillars and cut down their Asherim ¹⁴(for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),

Deuteronomy 4:24 (ESV) ²⁴For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

Numbers 25:10-11 (ESV) ¹⁰And the Lord said to Moses, ¹¹“Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has turned back my wrath from the people of Israel, in that he was jealous with my jealousy among them, so that I did not consume the people of Israel in my jealousy.

MAN'S IDOLS: Wisdom (Intelligence, Knowledge, Academic Position), **Power** (Physical, Political, Religious), **Riches** (Security, Pleasure, Possessions)

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (ESV) ²³Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord."

III. Unstable – what does it look like?

James 1:5-8 (ESV) ⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, **with no doubting**, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸**he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.**

SELF-DECEPTION

James 1:16 (ESV) ¹⁶Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. **(trust)**

James 1:22 ²²But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. **(obey)**

James 1:26-27 (ESV) ²⁶If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

WHO AMONG THE RELIGIOUS REALLY BELIEVES?

Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV) ⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Luke 18:1-8 (ESV) ¹And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ²He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' ⁴For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" ⁶And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. **Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"**

WHO AMONG THE RELIGIOUS REALLY PUTS AWAY SIN?

Jeremiah 7:8-11 (ESV) ⁸"Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail. ⁹Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, ¹⁰and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, 'We are delivered!'—only to go on doing all these abominations? ¹¹Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I myself have seen it, declares the Lord.

Isaiah 26:3-4 (ESV) ³You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. ⁴Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.