

Remnant Life Church  
July 16, 2017  
**Healing Power:**  
**The Danger of Double-Mindedness**  
Jas 1:5-8  
Gen 13:1-13

What does it mean to be double-minded?

- To give place in your mind (and your heart) to opposing or opposite thinking
- What does the Bible say?

**READ James 1:5-8**

- Each of us live with two ways of thinking that are constantly at war against one another – the Spirit and the flesh
  - **Matt 6:24** – (Jesus says) *No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. (Spirit/flesh)*
  - **Phil 2:2** - *then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.*
- The result of doublemindedness is instability
  - **I Kings 18:21a** - *Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions?*
  - **Eph 4:14** – (Having become mature in Christ)...*then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.*
  - **Rev. 3:15-16** - (to the church in Laodicea) *I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.*
- This relates to healing as we know that faith is one of two foundational cornerstones for healing
  - Faith is about certainty
  - Faith is about being sure
    - **Heb 11:1** - *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*
  - Doublemindedness acts to weaken your faith by the thoughts you entertain and the words of your mouth
    - You feel one way in your heart but your mind, and consequently your words, are feeling and expressing just the opposite
    - How many of you have every dealt with this?
      - Every one of us should have our hands raised because we all do

- The mind is a battlefield
  - It is here that it gives place to doubts that:
    - God saved you from your sins
    - Called you to do what you are doing
    - That He hears or answers your prayers
    - He has let you down
    - And sometimes the circumstances can be so overwhelming that you wonder if God loves you or is even there at all
  - These thoughts and feelings weaken you not only spiritually but emotionally and physically as well
  - This is the impact of being double-minded and it is then that it becomes a road block to your future
- How does satan bring these doubts to our minds?
  - He starts with deception and the word “I”
  - He wants you to think that the doubts are your doubts, your thoughts, your ideas, and – the biggest deception - the truth
- A man or woman growing in the things of God will not be swayed back and forth by whatever thoughts happen to come because we stand on the truth of the Word of God
  - The Bible tells us that we are to take every thought captive
  - **2 Cor 10:5** - *We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*
  - Take it captive how?
    - By asking God if it is of Him
    - By checking it against the Word
    - By not immediately reacting to every thought that comes into your brain
- The best example of a double-minded man can be found in **Genesis 13**

**READ – Gen 13:1-13**

- Abram and Lot
  - The land is not big enough for both Abram and Lot’s entourages
  - Abram tells Lot that he does not want this to escalate into something that will come between them (the word used is “brothers” but Abram is Lot’s uncle)
  - Abram tells Lot to pick which way he wants to go and Abram will go the other
    - This principle is written out by Paul (no doubt inspired by this account)
    - **Phil 2:3-4** - *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*
  - But Lot did not follow his uncle’s example
    - **(13:10)** - *Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)*
    - NOTE – the land reminded him of Eden and Egypt

- Anytime you see Egypt used as a type of land – it is a representation of the world – rejection of God
    - Lot had never seen Eden but he must have been familiar with the accounts and history to make that distinction
  - Lot did not defer to his elder out of respect
  - Double-mindedness is born out of “I”
- And so Lot’s heart becomes divided or he becomes double-minded
  - His is now, according to James, unstable
  - In large part because he does not seek God’s will for his life – he did not ask God what he should do
  - His decision will take him either toward worship (Eden) or evil (Egypt) and it will become the defining characteristic of his life
- Lot then takes another step further and becomes mixed in with people who do not acknowledge God
  - Lot starts in the plains outside the cities (13:12)
  - Before long he is living in the city itself (14:12)
  - Finally he is one of the business leaders of the city (19:1)
  - As Lot is becoming further and further immersed in the life of the city what is Abram doing?
    - Building an altar to God, living in Mamre near Hebron (13:8) and meeting with Melchizedek (14:18-20)
    - Those are the actions of a stable man – not doubleminded but singular of mind
- Lot wants the things of God but can’t let go of the world
  - This is the very picture of DM
  - A double-minded Christian
    - The definition of an oxymoron
    - Jumbo shrimp or guest host
- Single verses double-mindedness – what does that look like in these two men?
  - Abram lived by faith; Lot lived by sight
  - Abram was a man of generosity and unselfishness; Lot a man of greed and self-seeking
  - Abram walked toward worship; Lot toward wickedness
  - Abram sought eternal promises from God; Lot sought temporal things of the world
  - Abram lifted up his eyes to the Lord; Lot looked down to the best land of the valley
  - Abram was devoted to God; Lot was doubleminded
- Don’t be deceived into thinking that doublemindedness is reserved for those who don’t know the Lord
  - Lot was called a righteous man in 2 Peter 2:7



- What should our focus be?
  - **Eph 5:10-11** - ...*find out what **pleases** the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.*
  - **James 4:4** - ...*don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who **chooses** to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.*
  - **I John 2:15-17** - *Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever **does** the will of God lives forever.*