

Remnant Life Church
July 23, 2017
Healing Power:
Defeating Double-Mindedness

James 1:5-8

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

(Review) What does it mean to be doubleminded?

- To give place in your mind (and your heart) to opposing or opposite thinking
- We read in **James 1:5-8** that to be doubleminded means that we are unstable
- Each of us live with two ways of thinking that are constantly at war against one another – the Spirit and the flesh
- This relates to healing as we know that faith is one of the cornerstones for healing
 - Doublemindedness acts to weaken your faith by the thoughts you entertain and the words of your mouth

What produces doublemindedness?

- The primary element of doublemindedness is doubt
 - Faith and doubt are the opposite of one another
 - Jesus spoke often about them both
 - **Matt 14:31** – Jesus with Peter as he begins to sink on the water - *Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”*
 - **Luke 24:36-39** - *While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”*
 - Jesus allowed the disciples to utilize what produced faith in their minds – their physical senses
 - But what He wanted them to believe with was their hearts
 - **John 20:29** - *Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”*
- How are they proved to be so different in our lives?
 - Faith produces action presence
 - **Gen 12:1-4** - *The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and*

whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” So Abram went, as the LORD had told him;

- **Heb 11:8-9** - *By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.*
- Doubt causes us to hesitate and in that hesitation, we most often miss what God intended for us
 - Go back again to Peter walking on the water to meet Jesus in **Matt 14**
 - Because of his doubt Peter did not fully experience what Jesus had for him
 - How much have we missed in our lives because of doubt?
- What brings doubt into our minds and hearts?
 - False doctrine and teaching
 - **READ Acts 13:6-12**
 - Perversion of the Word of God (twisting meaning; out of context; used to control and manipulate)
 - Relying on human intellect and the wisdom of the world
 - **I Cor 3:18-21** - *Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become “fools” so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight. As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness”; and again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.” So then, no more boasting about human leaders!*
 - **Prov 2:6-7** - *For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,*
- Before we look at how to prevent doublemindedness from taking root in our hearts and minds – what does doubt do to our walk as Christians?
 1. **Matt 7:7** - *“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”*
 - a. If we doubt that God answers and provides, will we pray?
 2. **Luke 6:47-49** - *As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. ⁴⁸ They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. ⁴⁹ But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”*
 - a. If we doubt the truthfulness of God’s Word, will we obey it?
 3. **2 Cor 5:1-4** - *For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and*

are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

a. If we doubt the truth of heaven, will we press on toward the reward promised us?

4. **Heb 4:12** - *For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

a. If we doubt the power of God's Word to change a heart, will we share it with others?

• So how do we prevent doublemindedness from taking hold of us?

1. Guard your faith

a. Shield your heart and your mind from those things that are contrary to the Word of God

i. Negative people

ii. Information on the internet

iii. **Phil 4:8** - *...whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think (dwell) about such things.*

1. Think (Greek) – to compute; calculate; meditate; to reckon with force and weight

2. Not just a passing thought

iv. Satan loves to isolate us from one another but especially from God

1. That is a lie we are believing

2. We are NEVER separated from God

3. **Ro 8:37-39** – NOTHING can separate us from the love of God

v. Rebuke satan out loud when you pray

1. In the name of Jesus

2. Not on our own

3. **Phil 2:9-11** - *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

2. Be willing to honestly examine your thoughts and words before God

i. Do they align themselves with God's Word or who He is and who we are in Him?

ii. If not, ask forgiveness and change how you are doing things

3. Put on the Armor of God

i. **Eph 6:10-18**

ii. Do this regularly

iii. Do it EVERY DAY when you are struggling and you feel the attack of the enemy in your mind, your body, and your spirit

4. Finally – give thanks to God with a grateful heart

i. 1897 - Johnson Oatman, Jr was a pastor in New Jersey when he wrote a song that became very familiar...

- ii. 1st stanza - When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.
- iii. 4th stanza - So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you till your journey's end
- iv. Chorus - Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

- It becomes nearly impossible to be filled with doubt and become doubleminded when you are praising God for His goodness in your life