

*“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10, NKJV)*

- It is clear through this text that Satan has a plan to destroy our life
- Jesus is the One that brings us abundant life

One of the major ways that Satan steals the abundant life is through Double-Mindedness

*“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”*

*(James 1:5–8, NKJV)*

- The majority of double-minded people manage to function in life and have some success
- Yet they still have characteristics of double-mindedness
- This causes them to constantly be unstable in every area
- Never have peace about who they are or what they can or have to accomplish
- Double-minded – Greek word, *“One who has two souls; one who is wavering or inconstant.”*

*“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”*  
(James 4:8, NKJV)

- The same word – Only used in these two scriptures
- Someone who is always wavering, irresolute, doubting, changing – Lacking emotional control
- A person who has a problem making decisions and sticking to them
- Procrastinating, questioning, lingering, delaying
- Because of instability, he is always changing his mind concerning relationships, careers, ministries, and churches

Double-Mindedness is made up of two primary strongholds  
– Rejection and Rebellion

- Rejection is the doorway to Double-Mindedness
- When you are given to a spirit of rejection you have a hard time becoming the person God created you to be

You find yourself constantly trying to compensate for your lack of development and confidence

- This leads to Rebellion

**With Rebellion comes Bitterness against people and life circumstances that have caused all kinds of trauma**

- It causes a person to live out of a false, double personality
- Sometimes we refer to it as passive/aggressive
- It is simply, rejection/rebellion

The Double-Minded stronghold of Bitterness can cause health problems

Double-mindedness affects our ability to honor and stay true to covenant

- Covenant requires stability, loyalty, and faithfulness
- How can you walk in covenant when you are double-minded?
- God is a covenant-keeping God and our relationships with Him and through Him are based on covenant
- This can affect our marriages, families, and even the church at large

Unbelief and Backsliding are a sign of Double-Mindedness

*“Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”* (Hebrews 10:38, NKJV)

- Many Christians waver between two lifestyles
- They commit to Christ but then turn back to the world
- This was also an issue in the early church
- Many Hebrews departed from the faith and returned to the Old-Covenant system
- They wavered in their faith
- They were fighting and warring with one another – James 4

Double-Mindedness breeds doubt and unbelief

Backsliding and apostasy can be signs of Double-Mindedness

Because the person is not stable enough to deal with the challenges that come with being a believer, they withdraw or rebel

- Backsliding – *“apostasy, turn away, revolt, withdraw, slip or waver”*
- Israel was guilty of revolt, rebellion, and turning away

*“Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.” (Psalm 26:1, RSV)*

- Other Translations – *“I shall not slip, I slide not, I’m not budging”*

We need to stop sliding and wavering and become steadfast in our faith

*“You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;” (2 Peter 3:17, NKJV)*

- Apostasy was a problem in the early church
- It was the result of Double-Mindedness
- Peter, as well as Paul, and James encouraged them to remain steadfast in their commitment to Christ

*“For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.” (Colossians 2:5, NKJV)*

*“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.”*

*(James 1:6, NKJV)*

*“And Elijah came to all the people, and said, “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people answered him not a word.” (1 Kings 18:21, NKJV)*

- Israel was guilty of Double-Mindedness
- Elijah confronted them on Mt. Carmel
- He told them to make a choice
- Israel had gone back and forth between worshipping God and idols throughout their history
- Their loyalties were divided
- Through this showdown with the prophets of Baal Elijah demands that they make a decision and stick with it

*“Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment.” (Matthew 22:37–38, NKJV)*

- This is the opposite of Double-Mindedness
- This was the first and greatest commandment that Israel never kept
- Joshua challenged the people to choose whom they would serve – **Joshua 24:15**
- He made a decision
- He is a picture of single-mindedness
- He was firm and resolute in his decision
- He led victoriously in the conquest of the Promised-Land

The book of Judges details Israel's Double-Mindedness

*“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”* (Judges 21:25, NKJV)

They would walk with God for a season, sin, go into captivity, call upon the Name of the Lord, be delivered, walk with God for a season, repeat

- There were revivals and reformations throughout their history
- They were only temporary until God finally allowed them to go into Babylon
- God was always faithful to His covenant
- God is not Double-Minded
- Israel was not steadfast

*Life and death* are choices – Deuteronomy 30:19

- There is no room for Double-Mindedness
- *The Double-Minded person is always wavering between the two*

Many times Double-Mindedness manifests as fear

- King Saul is a biblical example of paranoia
- He became paranoid of those around him – especially David
- Accusing them of aspiring to take his kingdom
- Saul often manifested self-pity
- He would declare that no one was sorry for him
- Nobody cared about his situation or stayed faithful to him

*“Now it had happened as they were coming home, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments. So the women sang as they danced, and said: “Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands.” Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?” So Saul eyed David from that day forward.” (1 Samuel 18:6–9, NKJV)*

- David had done nothing to deserve this
- He was faithful to Saul, and now Saul was suspicious of his motives
- David became the target of Saul's paranoia
- Double-Minded leaders need deliverance

Leaders who are suspicious of everyone around them will use their power and authority to destroy the targets of their suspicions

- Saul eventually tried to murder David

Have you ever been around someone suspicious of everyone?

- They don't trust anyone
- This can be a sign of instability and Double-Mindedness
- Saul's fear ultimately led him to disobedience and even caused him to lose his kingdom

*“So Samuel said: “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice**, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.” Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD.” But Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel.”*

**(1 Samuel 15:22–26, NKJV)**

- This verse clearly shows many of the manifestations of Double-Mindedness
- Disobedience, compromise, rebellion, stubbornness, fear, and rejection

Double-mindedness weakens the church

*“looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;” (Hebrews 12:15, NKJV)*

- There are too many offended leaders and believers
- Unforgiveness and bitterness will stop a move of God
- Rejection and bitterness can be an open door for Double-Mindedness

Where there is a stronghold of Rejection and Bitterness there will soon be Rebellion

- Left unattended the Spirit of Rebellion will Cause Church Splits

Absalom is the biblical picture of the spirit of rebellion

– 2 Samuel 13-19

- He was full of hate, revenge, and murder after his brother Amnon raped their half-sister, Tamar
- He felt justice was not sought after on behalf of his sister
- He was probably right
- He shared his sister's shame, guilt, rejection, hurt, and bitterness
- He waited two years before he had his revenge
- Two years he was seethed with hate and bitterness against his brother
- Finally, he had his men do his dirty work, and they killed Amnon
- Absalom then went into hiding for fear of his father, David
- David never went to see him
- He did however grant his request to return to Jerusalem
- By this time the spirit of rejection had already set into Absalom's heart
- Absalom stole the people's hearts by hearing their claims for judgment
- He would hear them claiming there was no deputy of the king to hear them

*“Moreover Absalom would say, “Oh, that I were made judge in the land, and everyone who has any suit or cause would come to me; then I would give him justice.” And so it was, whenever anyone came near to bow down to him, that he would put out his hand and take him and kiss him. In this manner Absalom acted toward all Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.”*

**(2 Samuel 15:4–6, NKJV)**

- Absalom established himself as a leader behind David's back
- He attempted to overthrow David but was unsuccessful
- Eventually, he was killed by one of David's generals, Joab

There is rebellion throughout the church not only in the laity, but the leadership as well

- When people exalt themselves, they can become abusive and controlling, deceived and delusional
- They proclaim they are a “*special group*” with a “*special revelation*”
- Gifting is not the primary requirement for leadership, character is more important

*“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.”*

**(Psalm 51:17, NKJV)**

Rejection and Rebellion were common characteristics of many of the kings of Israel

Ahab and Jezebel:

- They were known for promoting the worship of Baal and Ashtoreth
- Men and women volunteered to serve as temple prostitutes to raise money for religious activities
- During their reign, sexual rights of all kinds took place in God's temple as well
- Homosexuality, bestiality, and every disgraceful perversion you can think of
- Women and men were worshipped for their physical beauty
- The display of sexual organs was widespread
- Huge carvings were displayed and worshipped
- Lust and perversion are part of the rejection personality

Jezebel was domineering, manipulative, seductive, and controlling

- She intimidated, threatened, lied, and did whatever it took to accomplish her end

Ahab was lustful, fearful, and tolerated wickedness

- He was passive and would not stand up for righteousness
- He was idolatrous, compromising, and covetous
- He was a rejected man who was connected to a rebellious woman

God judged both of them for their wickedness!

Rejection often begins at a young age, even in the womb

- An unwanted pregnancy, or an undesired sex
- Abandonment by one or both parents, whether intentional or perceived
- Emotional or physical abuse from a parent or authority figure
- Birth order (middle child syndrome)
- Spoiling or pampering a child
- A parent showing more attention to their children's friends than their child
- Unhappy parents who argue and fight

Rejection can also enter later in life

- Being deserted or divorced
- Experiencing the death or unfaithfulness of a marriage partner
- Having to serve a prison term
- Having an abortion
- Inability to find long term relief from emotional or physical problems
- Financial embarrassment, investment failure, or bankruptcy
- Rejection in love or a broken engagement
- Being fired or overlooked for promotion from a place of employment for incompetency
- Being let down by people who had been trusted whose advice you relied upon

Signs that you have suffered Rejection and demonic spirits that come with Rejection

**Lust:**

*Sexual impurity, adultery, fornication, harlotry, seduction, perversion, homosexuality. Lesbianism, masturbation, pornography, fantasy lust*

*Materialism, overindulgence, food addictions, (gluttony and bulimia), extreme dieting, drug, and alcohol abuse, and addiction*

**Insecurity and inferiority:** *Low self-esteem*

**Pride, vanity, and ego**

**Self-accusation:** *“Is there something wrong with me?” “Maybe I’m not good enough. Maybe it’s my fault.”*

**Depression:**

*Despondency, discouragement, and hopelessness*

*Withdrawal and isolation*

*Manic depression or bipolar disorder*

**Perfectionism:**

*Trying to do everything perfectly so they won't be rejected again*

*Obsessive-compulsive behavior*

*Rechecking your work or the work of others*

*Religious and judgmental, and critical*

*Intolerant, frustrated, and hypocritical*

## **Unfairness:**

*A feeling that life and people are unfair*

*Often taking up causes to rid the world of unfairness*

*Animal rights, environmental rights, homosexual rights, etc*

*False compassion – (the gift of mercy has true compassion on the hurting)*

## **Guilt, shame, and confusion:**

*Condemnation, unworthiness, and shame*

*A strong sense of guilt, embarrassment, and unworthiness*

## **Sensitiveness and easily offended:**

### **Fear:**

*Fear of abandonment, failure, rejection, dying, authority, germs, darkness, marriage, accidents, confrontation*

*Panic attacks, terror, apprehension, sudden fear, and more*

### **Paranoia:**

*Believing that someone is out to get you or take what is yours*

*Distrust of others*

*Excessive or irrational suspicions*

### **Indecision or Passivity:**

*“He is despised and rejected by men (and God), A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.” (Isaiah 53:3, NKJV)*