

*“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

The application is, *“A man who has no settled principles; who is controlled by passion; who is influenced by popular feeling; who is now inclined to one opinion or course of conduct, and now to another.”* – Albert Barnes, Notes on the bible

- 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

*“They speak idly everyone with his neighbor; With flattering lips and a double heart they speak.”* (Psalm 12:2, NKJV)

- Someone who halts between two opinions
- Someone who asks for one thing but means another
- Someone who asks amiss
- Someone who honors God with their lips, but their heart is far from Him
- Unstable in all their ways
- Unable to live by faith

Double-Mindedness is the polar opposite of stability

- God did not create us to be unstable people
- He created us in His image

*“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”*  
(Hebrews 13:8, NKJV)

*“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”* (1 Corinthians 15:58, NKJV)

- God’s purpose is that we have one stable personality
- Dependable and consistent
- God knows that instability can keep us from excelling

Unbelief, doubt, questioning, reasoning, wavering, and confusion will rule our life and render our faith ineffective

- It will cause us to be at war within ourselves
- Two opinions working against one another inside of you
- Even though you, (*the real you, in Christ*) know you should have faith, it will not be producing the fruit it should
- It will cause you to be tossed to and fro
- This is why we need to draw near to God and His word

As our hearts are purified through God’s word and receive deliverance, we begin to grow to love God’s Word and hate Double-Mindedness

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

Double-Mindedness is a dangerous, demonic spirit that causes people to be tossed around and wavering in their faith

- Double-Mindedness is common to us all
- Without deliverance and freedom from God, it will be something that will be recurring
- It will cause us to live a life of confusion
- It can result in a lifetime of bad relationships
- Relationships require stability

*“I hate the double-minded, But I love Your law.”*

**(Psalm 119:113, NKJV)**

- You cannot be double-minded and love God’s word at the same time
- Double-Mindedness will draw you away from the Word
- We must fall out of agreement with Double-Mindedness and desire to be free

*“Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”? But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.” (James 4:1–10, NKJV)*

- We can look like lovers of God on the outside yet our passions will be at war within us
- To be Double-Minded is to try to love God, and simultaneously chase after passions in the world

This will affect our lives and relationships from home to public interactions, small scale, large scale, and everything in between

- Wars and fighting come from lust – **James 4:1**
- Lust is a byproduct of rejection
- Lust causes confusion

Lust will lead us to look to the world in search of love

- It is Satan's substitute for true love
- Double-Mindedness breeds worldliness and carnality

This can be seen in teenage rebellion – lust, perversion, drugs, running away, profanity, disrespect of authority, alternative lifestyles, depression, suicidal tendencies, and withdrawal

- 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
- Double-Mindedness causes indecision, confusion, forgetfulness, indifference

This can be debilitating in life because life is built on making decisions

- Procrastination is another way of avoiding decisions
- The root is the spirit of fear
- Fear of making a decision or making the wrong choice
- Our choices pave the way for success or failure

*“And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of 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 24:15, NKJV)**

When we have a difficult time making decisions or changing our minds often it can leave us stuck in life

- Forever wavering and questioning our own decisions

*“I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;” (Deuteronomy 30:19, NKJV)*

- The word of God challenges us to make wise decisions
- We are commanded to choose life
- We can choose blessing or cursing
- We can choose to serve the Lord

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

Many marriages end in divorce. For the greater part, they are caused because of instability, and a lack of being able to stick with a decision

Families need men to stand up, protect and provide for their families

- Stand up and say to their wives and children,
- *“I’ve got this!”*
- *“Devil, you cannot have my wife and kids!”*
- *“You will not destroy us!”*
- *“I trust in God, I am the covering and head of this house!”*

It is also time for men to take a stand in church!

We can love our wives, love our children, love people, live holy, love to pray, love to worship, and love to talk about the things of God!

The Double-Minded stronghold of Bitterness can also cause health problems

*“A merry heart does good, like medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones.” (Proverbs 17:22, NKJV)*

- Many times we internalize our bitterness
- This will often produce anger
- If you live in denial you'll become resentful and bitter
- This can lead to physical problems



Skin problems, headaches, allergies, neck or backaches, stiffness of joints, arthritis, pains, stress, nervousness, and various diseases

So many believers need deliverance from bitterness to receive healing from physical ailments

- Forgiveness will release you from the stronghold of bitterness
- The more you forgive the more you receive healing physically
- Brokenness and repentance are necessary for healing and deliverance

*“The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.” (Psalm 34:18, NKJV)*

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)**

- Double-Mindedness is like a storm within a storm
- Do you have a history of stormy relationships?
- Do you have a stormy marriage?
- Do you have a problem moving from church to church?
- The problem could be Double-Mindedness

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

## 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

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:10, NKJV)*

*“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)**