

# PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

*For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)*

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## Of Two Minds

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### Introduction

Have you ever wrestled with a situation in which you didn't know what to do? One moment you think that you should do such and such and the next moment you think that you should do something completely different or even do nothing at all. Some circumstances or problems can be so overpowering that our mental processes strain and twist painfully trying to reach a decision about a course of action. We become irritable, restless; we can't sleep; we lose weight. Stress produces health problems and we still don't know what to do.

This issue of Present Truth Teaching Letter is in some ways a continuation of our last issue [[When Trouble Comes](#)] and will look at the problem of being of two minds over a troublesome problem and vacillating between them from a biblical perspective. The world holds no answers for us in this area—only the Lord can bring peace, the kind that surpasses understanding.

### Soul Dividing

When trouble comes upon us such as trials, tribulations and persecutions, we are told to ask God for wisdom if we don't understand what is happening or know what to do. However, this has to be done in faith.

James 1:4-8 NASB

- (4) And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
- (5) But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.
- (6) But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.
- (7) For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

(8) being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Dealing with these extremely troubling issues where we are unsure of what to do can easily cause us to be “double-minded”, torn between two courses of action without knowing which way to go. The word translated as “double-minded” in this verse literally means “double soul”; that is, of two souls or minds. Since we actually have only one soul, another way of saying this is that the circumstances are so extreme as to cause us to be soul-divided over it. As we agonize over what to do, we are unable to ask in faith for an answer from God. Why? Because we are so overwhelmed that we are unable to believe that God has an answer.

## Single Vision

Jesus told us the importance of being focused with a single eye toward the things of God.

Matthew 6:22 NASB

(22) "The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.

Jesus continues with the admonition that we cannot serve two masters but must focus on one with single minded devotion. This is the opposite of being double-minded.

So, our first consideration when we are agonizing over a course of action or resolution of our problem is whether or not we are seeking to serve two masters. Is our agonizing vacillation between two opinions actually us trying to have the best of both worlds—the natural and the spiritual—without fully committing to either? This is what makes a double-minded person unstable in all of his ways. He is trying to walk with one foot in the world and the other foot in the spirit. This conflict of devotion results in instability in every aspect of our lives.

## A Committed Way

Once we have a single focus on the Lord we need to make sure that our way is committed to Him.

Psalms 37:5 NASB

(5) Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.

Notice that this Psalm does not say “commit yourself to finding the way of the Lord” but instead says “commit your way to the Lord”. It is a given that we are constantly seeking the way of the Lord for our lives. But, part of the maturing process includes the Word being made flesh in us; that is, becoming a part of us. As we mature, the ways of the Lord become a natural outcome of our thought processes and heart desires.

Sometimes we wrestle with decisions to the point of double-mindedness crying out to the Lord for an answer when the Lord is waiting for us to make a decision and commit our way to Him. As we trust in Him, He will see to it that our way works for our good. [*Romans 8:28*]

[NOTE: I am assuming that the reader is not a babe in Christ but is in the process of maturing and has at least begun the process of renewing the mind. If one is still operating from a carnal mindset then your way is focused on your own desires and not those of the

Lord. For more on renewing the mind see “[Renewing the Mind Audio Series](#)” on the website.]

## Resolution

We have given three steps to overcoming our double-minded wrestling with problems, consequences, decisions, and the frustration of not knowing what to do.

1. Ask God for wisdom about why the trouble is happening. Ask in faith, believing that He will answer.
2. Make sure that you are focused clearly on God and His plans for you. You cannot serve two masters. That includes God and yourself.
3. Commit your way to the Lord and trust in Him. Make a decision to the best of your understanding and then commit it to the Lord and proceed with it expecting the Lord to make it happen.

If we will do these three things, the soul-dividing problems that we face will come into proper perspective. Doing these will allow us to move forward in the Lord and not waste our emotional energy in self doubt, unbelief, and agonizing stasis over what to do.

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