

## A DOUBLE MIND

Isaiah 26:3 ... 'You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.'

Today's verse is Isaiah's declaration that God will keep you in perfect peace if you trust him and keep your mental focus on him. You probably already agree with that truth and believe in it. However, believing it and living it can be two different things. We usually apply the term "double-mindedness" to people who say one thing and do another, or people who have secret motives behind the things they do or say. However, we can also apply the term to our spiritual lives because there is a vast difference between living according to God's guidelines, and the total absence of guidelines offered us by satan. For many of us, that creates a struggle to choose which voice to listen to.

I believe nearly every believer lives a double-minded life at least a little. Paul even confessed to it. I have known but perhaps one or two people in my lifetime, that I believe were almost 100% stayed on God in their thinking and actions. And, then only during the brief period in which I knew them. One of them was my mother-in-law, Aurea's mother Lilian. I first met her in 2003 and I immediately sensed a special godly spirit in her; guiding her every thought, word and deed. Before she lost the ability to communicate a few years later, she was always concerned about spiritual matters in the lives of the people around her. Her children testify that she modeled that behavior her entire life.

But what about you and I? I cannot testify that my life has been as singularly focused on God as was Lilian's. I have believed in God all my life and have served him for fifty years. I have sought and found God's will for my life, I follow his guidance each day, and I do my best to satisfy his desire. But, there is a small area of my mind that finds some of what the world offers, appealing. I face temptation just like you, and just like Jesus did. There have been times in my life when I submitted to temptation and made mistakes. The Bible tells us that ALL have sinned and fallen short of God's expectations. When it says ALL, that means you, too. It does not matter if you are an altar boy, worship leader, missionary, Bible teacher, priest, or pastor. We ALL have sinned and will continue to do so until we die. Hopefully, you are maturing in your faith and obedience to God, and your sins are becoming less frequent and less devastating.

Each day you face decisions; some big, some small. God has promised to give you the wisdom you need to make decisions correctly if you ask him, even the silly little ones that you do not think matter to him, because he cares about every detail of your life. At the time you must decide, you may be faced with an offer from satan that is very attractive. That makes the decision very important because satan would not bother to entice you with a sinful act, unless it would create a serious break in your relationship with God. Satan's motive in tempting you is not necessarily to hurt you, but to drive a wedge between you and God. The solution to this dilemma is to understand that we are prone to being double-minded; it is part of our fallen human nature. So, face each day with that in mind and ask God to give you the wisdom to make every decision you face, correctly.

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