



3 Don't Be Double-Minded

Daily Devotional Guide/Notes: Nov 12-18, 2023

DISCERNMENT KEY #1: HAVE A HEALTHY SPIRIT

- you must remain in Christ/connected to Vine

DISCERNMENT KEY #2: SHEDDING - lay aside false beliefs

DISCERNMENT KEY #3: DON'T BE DOUBLE-MINDED - use freedom to CHOOSE God's Voice/the Spirit and Reject the World/Flesh

James 1:5-8, "Wisdom will certainly be given to those who ask. ⁶ Whoever asks shouldn't hesitate. They should ask in faith, without doubting. Whoever doubts is like the surf of the sea, tossed and turned by the wind. ⁷ People like that should never imagine that they will receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ They are double-minded, unstable in all their ways." *double-minded = unstable in terms of flesh/body and spirit/Spirit

The Flesh vs. the Spirit = Your Dual (double-minded) Nature

John 3:5, "Jesus answered, 'I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it's not possible to enter God's kingdom.'⁶ Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit."

- what does it mean to be "born again"? Nicodemus asked?

The answer = for your SPIRIT to "come alive" (from "not alive")

Can a person be "alive" with a "dead spirit"? ABSOLUTELY!!!

Jesus makes clear, **there is NO LIFE with a dead spirit.**

John 15:5-6, "Without me, you can't do anything. ⁶ If you don't remain in me, you will be like a branch that dies, is thrown out and dries up. Those branches are gathered up, thrown into a fire, and burned"

This is why you must first "be born again" (John 3:5-6)

- the idea = your SPIRIT must be born... from "not alive" to life

- whatever is born of the flesh IS flesh (John 3:6)

- whatever is born of the Spirit IS spirit (John 3:6)

Can a person have a "barely alive"/withered spirit/soul? Of Course.

*this is what James wants us to AVOID

- this is **the "double-minded" person of James 1:8**

1. On the one hand, your spirit is "born again"/you accept Jesus

2. On the other hand, you TURN BACK to ways of the flesh

- you don't DO what Jesus asks, except what's easy

The Double-minded Person:

- is only faithful in what is comfortable, easy, and convenient

(this is the "easy path," NOT narrow/difficult path discipleship)

- with every "storm of difficulty" (where faith is challenged), you are blown about, tossed and turned by the wind

The Wind? What you don't like, what is difficult, what requires faith (you don't want to do it, but FAITH says you should and must)

Mt 7:26 "Those who hear my words but don't put them into practice (you won't do them), are like foolish builders who build on the sand."

NOTE: you have HEARD the Words of Christ

but, you won't be faithful where faith is required

NOTE: faith is NOT required for the easy stuff

On Faith and Works:

1. Faith in Christ "brings to life" our souls/we are "born again," and this is ONLY something God can do

Eph 2:1-8, "2 At one time you were like a dead person because of the things you did wrong and your offenses against God. ² You used to live like people of this world. You followed the rule of a destructive spiritual power. This is the spirit of disobedience to God's will that is now at work in persons whose lives are characterized by disobedience. ³ At one time you were like those persons. All of you used to do whatever felt good and whatever you thought you wanted so that you were children headed for punishment just like everyone else... ⁸ You are saved by God's grace because of your faith."

2. But just because we are "saved by faith" (our souls come alive), doesn't mean that your soul is immediately healthy, mature, and strong!

Heb 5:11-14, "We have a lot to say about this topic, and it's difficult to explain, because you have been lazy and you haven't been listening. ¹² Although you should have been teachers by now, you need someone to teach you an introduction to the basics about God's message. You have come to the place where you need milk instead of solid food. ¹³ Everyone who lives on milk is not used to the word of righteousness, because they are babies. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, whose senses are trained by practice to distinguish between good and evil."

3. Mature faith only comes through Faithful Activity

- includes **LEARNING**/growing in the Way/Word

- includes **DOING** what you learn

James 2:20-26, "Are you so slow? Do you need to be shown that faith without actions has no value at all? ... In fact, Abraham's faith was made complete by his faithful actions. ²³ So the scripture was fulfilled that says, *Abraham believed God, and God regarded him as righteous.* What is more, Abraham was called God's friend. ²⁴ So you

see that a person is shown to be righteous through faithful actions and not through faith alone. ... As the lifeless body is dead, so faith without actions is dead."

1 John 5:2-6, "This is how we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and keep God's commandments.

1 John 2:3-5, "The one who claims, "I know him," while not keeping his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in this person.

John 15:10, "If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love"

Mt 7:24-26, "everybody who hears these words of mine and doesn't put them into practice will be like a fool"

WHY is the person a fool, who "hears Jesus words" but doesn't put Jesus' words into practice?

*Fool = a person who lacks judgment and common sense; unwise

- fools HEAR Jesus' words, but don't practice them

- to the crux of "hearing from God"/discerning God's voice

POINT: Wise people CHOOSE to listen + follow

... fully understanding you have the freedom to NOT

POINT: YOUR FREEDOM, the heart of hearing from God

Gal 5:13-25, "You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only don't let this freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish/flesh impulses"

a. You were called to "Freedom"

- reductio ad absurdum- a proposition is disproven by following its logical consequences to an absurd end

1) Since I am free in Christ, and since God loves me unconditionally, then I can live however I want.

2) *God doesn't care if I disobey and am unfaithful in certain areas, because God knows I am faithful in OTHER areas*

- this is ***the "double-minded" person of James 1:8***

1. On the one hand, you claim to love and yield your life to Him

2. On the other hand, you yield your life to FLESH/the world

*you REJECT FAITHFULNESS/self-control where it is difficult

To Humans, Animals, and the "Freedom to Choose"

Aside from your soul, what differentiates you from an animal?

SAME: we all eat, sleep, have homes, families to an extent, and more

DIFFERENT: humans have souls/spirits, animals do not

DIFFERENT: Humans have the freedom to exercise self-control

... animals do not

Ex. - My Poodle, "Whiskey"

- she doesn't pee on the carpet, sits in my lap for my devo, doesn't bite us
I CAN'T get her to: use the toilet or stop eating her throw up

*Why should it upset me when she eats her throw up?

Ex. - Our New Worship and Students Pastor, Peter Docherty:

Would anyone be upset, if he jumped off the stage, peed on the carpet, growled at a few visitors, and chewed on the piano legs?

- of course. we'd say, WHAT AN ANIMAL!

- would we be all that shocked if my dog did that?

Ex. - To the WORST of humanity among us:

Those who rape, steal, kill...

Those who choose NOT to control themselves... act on every impulse

Those who ... *act like animals*

WHAT DO WE DO WITH THEM? PUT THEM IN CAGES

CAGES = PRISON

In society, Freedom demands Self-control and Discipline;

- the less self-control you have, the less freedom you deserve

To this point: FREEDOM DEMANDS DISCIPLINE/self-control

Veteran's Day - ***What did all those soldiers fight and die for?***

- Ideally, what are our soldiers fighting for today?

A: for us to rape, kill, steal, cheat, lie, hate, fight, argue?

WHAT DID JESUS FIGHT AND DIE FOR?

A: for us to have life and life in abundance

... how does that happen?

Gal 5:13-25, "You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only don't let this freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish/flesh impulses"

John 15:10, "If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love.. (*... and you will bear much fruit to glorify My Father*)"

To the Point regarding Hearing From God/Discerning His Voice:

Note: IT IS YOUR CHOICE ... and choice means **USING YOUR FREEDOM FOR SELF-CONTROL** and the discipline of a **DISCIPLE**

*understanding, you are choosing NOT to live according to the flesh

John 6:27, "**Stop working so hard for bread that doesn't satisfy!**"

- so many layers of meaning to that, but primarily:

Stop being double-minded

- choose Bread of Life instead of bread for life

*don't turn back to the world

*don't be a "spiritual baby, undeveloped and incapable

- you must make SPIRITUAL CHOICES, reject worldly ones

- use your freedom, to be a disciple (disciplined)

Do this, and (**John 8:32**), **the Truth will set you free**

- rather than a caged animal, you will be "like the birds of the air"

+ in the process, you will continually "hear" from God

... because you will not have chosen to "live separate" from Him

Items of Note:

Wednesday Night All Church Programming (6 weeks)

6:30-8:00PM (Oct 25, Nov 1, 8, 15, 29, Dec 6)

Free Yoga Class - Gretchen Brown will be hosting a free yoga class on Saturday mornings, 9-10am now through December 9 in the fellowship hall. Come warm your heart, exercise, and build community.

Decking the LP Halls - We will be decorating the church for Christmas, Sunday, November 26, following the morning service. If you would like to stick around and help, we'd appreciate it. Many hands make light work. See Dana Moore for more details.

November Missions Focus - Thanksgiving food baskets for families with kids in the Snack Sack program at Seven Hills Elementary School. The shopping list is available now. Food baskets should be returned by Sunday, November 12.

Angel Tree gifts for students at Seven Hills Elementary School will be available November 5, and need to be returned by Sunday, November 26. UPDATE: So many angels have already been chosen from the trees in the fellowship hall. Thank you for your overwhelming generosity!

Lastly, If anyone is interested in going on a mission trip to Sager Brown in Baldwin, Louisiana, April 14 - April 19, 2024 please stop by the Mission Kiosk for more information. The cost is \$290 (which includes food and housing for the week).

Dec 10 - Consecration Sunday. Where do you need to be more faithful to Christ in the upcoming year? Are you closer to and stronger with Christ today than you were at any point in the past? Consecration Sunday is your opportunity to assess the current state of your soul and recommit your life to Christ as part of your resolutions to "do better" in the upcoming year.

Dec 24 (Sunday) - Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 11 am.

Can we join in prayer with or for you? Please email us your prayers

Counseling scholarships are always available! email, pastor@lifepointfellowship.com.

Personal Discipleship Questions? Joining LP questions? Contact Pastor Thomas to set up a coffee appointment.

Any other questions? Email Ashley@LifePointFellowship.com

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

HABIT 1 of Faithful Discipleship: Have a daily devotional. How? 3 Steps:

I. Work through the 5 Prayer Forms

1 - Begin w/Centering Prayer

- Mt 11:28-30, Name and Release your burdens/distractions to Christ
- Psalm 46:10, Consciously seek to clear your mind and "Be Still"

2 - Intentionally Glorify (worship) the Lord

- involves your participation by glorifying God, adoration, praise and worship
- Name the "Good" within you (the specific "fruit" you are experiencing today, like peace, or love, or joy, or hope, faithfulness, goodness, etc.)
- Name the "Good" around you (Gen 1:31, "And God saw that it was good.")
 - a. What do you see that God has made that is good today in the creation?
- Participate: Lift Up the "Good in You" with the "Good In Creation" in worship

3 - Confess Your Sins

- a. What have you done that is wrong? (From works to 7 Deadly sins)
- b. What have you left undone that would have been right?

4 - Give Thanks to God for your Blessings (name them)

5 - Make Your Requests to God

- a. for other people who are on your heart
 - include your church leadership and family
 - include people you know who need to accept Christ/get right with Him
- b. Make requests to God for yourself

2. Time of Listening to God through His Words

Read through the daily scripture passages, with the goal to "hear from God" on any point you feel relates to you. Stop and reflect on those truths.

Nov 13 - Mon - John 8

Nov 14 Tues - James 2

Nov 15 Wed - Eph 1

Nov 16 Thur - Gal 5

Nov 17 Fri - James 1

Nov 18 Sat - Mt 7

3. Closing Prayer + The Lord's Prayer