



JAMES

Living Out Your
Faith Victoriously
Chapter 1

Living Out Your Faith Victoriously

JAMES CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to another Wednesday night Bible Study! We continue to explore the Book of James. We are working our way through chapter one. Last week we studied verse 6. Tonight, we will be studying verses 7 and 8. I am combining them because both are small verses and easy to do together.

Again, I remind you that my method in conducting this study has two purposes. **The first is to help you know and understand this great book of the Bible.** My prayer is that you learn what I am learning you will come with a humble heart and open mind accepting what God says. Additionally, all of us need to come with an attitude of simple obedience to God in all that we learn. Thus, we are gaining knowledge

with the intent of obeying God as we look to please Him in all areas of our life.

The second purpose is to help you learn ways to study God's Word. Studying God's Word is much more than just reading God's Word. Studying is work. It is us rolling up our sleeves as we dig into each word, each sentence, and each paragraph. It means understanding the grammatical sense as well as spiritual sense of each passage. Hopefully, you are already discerning a pattern approach that I take when I study God's Word. It is not the only way to do it. However, it is a way that helps me. I hope that it will help you as well.

Now, for those who might be joining us for the first time, let me explain the process. We are first doing a sentence-by-sentence grammatical analysis of each sentence within a paragraph. Grammatically we are seeking out words making up the different parts of speech (i.e. verbs, nouns, adjectives, and adverbs). We are doing some word study in order to get to the root definition of each word. We then bring the sentence back together with a summary of that sentence. After that, we use the principle of 2 Timothy 3:16 and 17 and analyze the sentence accordingly. 2 Timothy 3:16 and 17 clearly says that ***“all scripture”*** is inspired by God and it is ***“profitable”*** for our spiritual growth. It identifies ***“all scripture”*** as doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction of righteousness. Scripture tells us what is right, what is not right, how to get right, and how to stay right.

Before we get into verses 8 and 9, let us read the entire context of the paragraph starting with verse 5 and reading to verse 12.

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men

liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted: But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away. For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways. Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

James 1:5-12

Now, let us go back to verse 7 and 8 which read...

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. James 1:7-8

BODY

Here are the parts of speech.

Grammatical Analysis

For **let not** that *man* **think** that **he shall receive** any thing of the *Lord*. A **double minded** *man* **is unstable** in **all** his *ways*.
James 1:7-8

Verbs

LET...THINK – oiomai and oimai: to suppose, expect

HE SHALL RECEIVE - **2983** *lambánō* (from the primitive root, *lab-*, meaning "actively lay hold of to take or receive," see NAS dictionary) – properly, to lay hold by *aggressively (actively) accepting* what is available (offered). [2983](#) /*lambánō* ("accept with initiative") emphasizes the *volition (assertiveness)* of the receiver.

IS – be, being

Nouns

MAN – **444** *ánthrōpos* – *man*, also the generic term for "mankind"; the human race; people, including *women* and men (Mt 4:19, 12:12, etc.).

[444](#) (*ánthrōpos*) relates to *both* genders (male and female) as both are created in the image of God – each *equally* vested with individual personhood and destiny (cf. Gal 3:28).

Accordingly, the Bible uses [444](#) (*ánthrōpos*) of a specific man, woman, or class (type, group) of people – i.e. *mankind in general* (inclusive of every man, woman and child; see also 1 Cor 11:7). ([435](#) /*anér* specifically refers to a male and [1135](#) /*gynḗ* to a female.)

[[444](#) /*ánthrōpos* ("man") answers to the Hebrew term, *ʾadam* – and [435](#) (*anér*) answers to the Hebrew term *ʾish*.

K. Wuest, "There are two words in Greek which mean 'man,' *anēr*, which refers to a *male individual* of the human race, and *anthrōpos*, which is the racial, *generic* term, and which has the general idea of '*mankind*' " (3, *Great Truths to Live By*, 46).]

LORD - **2962** *kýrios* – properly, a person exercising *absolute ownership rights*; *lord* (*Lord*).

[In the papyri, [2962](#) (*kýrios*) likewise denotes an *owner* (*master*) exercising full rights.]

A...MAN – *anér*: a man

WAYS - *hodos*: a way, road

Adjectives

DOUBLE MINDED – **1374** *dípsyxos* (an adjective, derived from [1364](#) /*dís*, "two" and [5590](#) /*psyxé*, "soul") – properly, "two souled"; (figuratively) "double-minded," i.e. a person "split in half," vacillating like a "spiritual schizophrenic." This term may have been coined in the NT (R. Lenski, P. Davids).

UNSTABLE - **Cognate: 182** *akatástatos* – unsettled. [See 181](#) (*akatastasiais*).

181 *akatastasia* (from [1](#) /A "not," [2596](#) /*katá*, "down" and *stasis*, "status, standing," cf. [2476](#) /*hístēmi*) – properly, can *not* stand (remain steady); *unsettled*, *unstable* (in *tumult*); (figuratively) *instability* bringing on *disorder* (*disturbance*).

[181](#) /*akatastasia* ("commotion") generates confusion (things being "out of control"), i.e. when "up for grabs."

This *uncertainty and tumult* inevitably generates more *instability*.

ALL - **3956** *pás* – each, every; each "part(s) of a totality" (L & N, 1, 59.24).

3956 /*pás* ("each, every") means "all" in the sense of "each (every) part that applies." The emphasis of the total picture then is on "one piece at a time." **365** (*ananeóō*) then focuses on the *part(s)* making up the whole – viewing the whole *in terms of the individual parts*.

[When **3956** (*pás*) modifies a word with the definite article it has "extensive-intensive" force – and is straightforward *intensive* when the Greek definite article is lacking.]

Adverbs

NOT (modifying "Let...think") - **3361** *mé* (a particle which functions as an adverb) – no, not. **3361** (*mé*) negates "subjectively," ruling out *any implications* ("suggestions") that *could* be involved with what *should* (*could, would*) apply.

3361 /*mé* ("not") negates the underlying *idea* (*concept*) of a statement, ruling out its *possibilities*, i.e. all that it suggests on a conceptual or hypothetical plane.

[**3361** /*mé* ("not, no") then negates the *implications* (*suggestions*) that naturally spring from the negated statement.]

SUMMARY

For **let not** that *man think* that **he shall receive** any thing of the *Lord*. **A double minded man is unstable** in **all** his *ways*. James 1:7-8

For **let [suppose or expect] not [negate the underlying idea ruling out all possibilities]** that *man* [*a*

man/person/refers to both genders in the sense of mankind]
think [suppose or expect] that **he shall receive** [actively lay hold of to take or receive] any thing of the *Lord [absolute owner of all things]*. A **double minded [a person “split in half” or a someone who is spiritually schizophrenic]** *man [a man/person/refers to both genders in the sense of mankind]* **is [state of being] unstable [unsettled; instable resulting in disorder; when everything “up for grabs”]** in **all [all the parts making the totality]** his *ways [a way/road]*.
James 1:7-8

You might summarize it this way.

For a person should not suppose or expect that he/she can actively lay hold of anything that rightfully belongs to One who is absolute owner of all things, the Lord. A person is spiritually split in half is a person whose instability results in disorder in every area of their life.

What that in mind, let us move to the...

2 Timothy 3:16 & 17 Analysis

Now, if you remember from last week, I included an added step here. That step involves asking two questions. They are...

- What is **God talking about?**
- What is **God saying about what He is talking about?**

The answer as I see them for each verse is this.

In verse 7...

- God is talking about **our expectations.**

- He is saying this about our expectations. **Do not have any. When you come to God for answers or for requests, do not insert your expectation. Instead, trust Him as He is the absolute owner of all things.**

In verse 8...

- God is talking about **double minded people.**
- God is saying that double minded people **are so unstable that create or cause disorder in every area of their life.**

Considering 2 Timothy 3:16, we find this...

What is RIGHT?

Simply stated the right thing to do is just trust God. The overall context is us asking for God's wisdom amid difficult circumstances which test us and try us. Verse 6 speaks to us trusting Him in those situations without any wavering or doubt. **Thus, verse 7 builds upon the idea of simply trusting Him and His wisdom. Verse 8 is another reminder that the right thing for us is to be steadfast in our faith in God and His wisdom.**

What is NOT right?

This is the bigger part of these verses. For much of this passage, God has emphasized what is RIGHT. Now, God moves to what is NOT RIGHT. **It is not right for us seek His wisdom while keeping or holding on to our own expectations. Doing so causes us to be double minded or waving back and forth.** We often go to God seeking His wisdom (which by the way is usually easy to know and understand as we study His Word), yet, we often go with our preconceived ideas as to what God should do or not do. The issue is that we do this often with our selfish interests and motives in mind. That is NOT the RIGHT WAY to approach

God. We must come to Him truly asking for His help and looking to understand everything from His perspective, not ours. We are to empty ourselves of our own preconceived notions and simply trust Him. Unfortunately, too many times we do not. The result is a spiritually schizophrenic Christian who desires what they want while trying to appease God. It does not work. It only brings disorder and chaos. It is much better to simply rid ourselves of what we wish or want in all situations looking to understand exactly what God wants. For this to happen, it takes great faith!

So now, what if I am struggling in this area and not doing this, what should I do? That is the...

HOW to GET RIGHT?

Getting right always starts with confession. **I must first admit to myself that “yes” I am indeed bringing before God my own preconceived ideas and wishes. Which means that I am acknowledging that I am not truly trusting and believing God.** Especially, I am not trusting that He is using testing or trials in my life to grow me spiritually. If I were then I would simply trust that everything God allows in my life is for that purpose. I must confess to Him that I am not truly relying upon His wisdom, but my own. I, then, must ask for His forgiveness. Repent of my own unbelief. Ask Him to help my unbelief through His Word and the power of His Spirit. I must then determine to stop giving into those preconceived wants and wishes in each situation that God allows in my life. I must learn to come to Him with an open heart and clear mind.

HOW to STAY RIGHT?

The only way I know to STAY RIGHT is **just be obedient**. I must be obedient to these verses. There is no other way.

CONCLUSION

Boy, what a great lesson for us tonight! The truth of God's Word is powerful. God knows us better than we know ourselves. And, if we are honest with ourselves (and we are not always that way) then we must admit that many times we do seek His wisdom with preconceived ideas. In other words, we say with our mouth **“God, I want your wisdom in this situation. BUTTTTTTTTT, if you will do this and that, boy, that would be great!”** What did we just do? We are telling the God of the Universe Who is the LORD of all things and our CREATOR what we think is best for us. We do this denying the fact that we are indeed sinful, selfish people. That is the wrong! Instead, we should just simply trust Him and allow Him to work whatever way He sees fit in our lives accepting whatever His wishes to accomplish in us.