James #25

Instability and strong faith never coexist for a Christian.

Let us open back up in James chapter one RF.

Jam 1:5 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.

[Jas 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/6/s_1147006) 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.

[Jas 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/7/s_1147007) For that person ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

/[Jas 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/8/s_1147008) *being* a **double-minded man,** **unstable** in all his ways.\

Verses 5- 6 and 7 points to a strong faith, then verse 8 shows a result of refusing to grow in that faith.

This chapter is an emphasis on FAITH!

The testing of your faith must happen from time to time for true growth. It is also a wonderful gauge to reveal where you are at in your spiritual walk.

God often likes to hold a mirror up to our face to either give us encouragement or to bring forth enforced humility.

Just as any good FATHER – He wants us to grow, learn and succeed. Sometimes that takes both ends of the Shepherd’s staff.

[Jas 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/9/s_1147009) Now the brother *or sister* of humble *circumstances* is to glory in his high position;

[Jas 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/10/s_1147010) but the rich person *is to glory* in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away.

James is reminding these Bels that your status and wealth hold no eternal value – your faith is much more important.

The person with two minds is like having two souls, one for the earth, and another for heaven. This is a Christian who wishes to live in both worlds; they refuse to make a choice between earthly beliefs and earthly solutions. As opposed to having divine knowledge, wisdom and divine solutions.

This portion of James forces us to get off the fence or suffer the consequences.

 REPEAT

Jump over to Romans chapter 4 RF.

/Double minded – *dipsychos,* to be divided, two minds, deep uncertainty.

 Unstable – *akatastatos,* inconsistency and restlessness.

This is a Christian with no roots of strong faith or a balanced and organized lifestyle.\

DIPS-OO-CUS, this is a spilt mind, unstable, never fully getting off the fence. The two Greek root words used, mean split or two minds - two souls.

Unstable – ARK-AH-TOS-KE-TOS, speaks to a restless spirit, one with no consistency.

With no consistency you lack reliability and usually you lack accountability.

/A Christian who refuse to adjust to the plan of GOD over time will never have stability of faith. This almost always leads to a natural instability in life – core beliefs, norms and standards, ideologies and problem-solving skills, will always be rooted in cosmic system ideologies and human viewpoint.\

Divine Viewpoint can never mix with human viewpoint, Divine Wisdom is never to take a back seat to cosmic system ideologies – it is oil and water on steroids.

The sooner you begin to get off the fence and organize and balance your life around the truth of BD – studying, learning and applying the WORD, the sooner your faith will gain some muscle.

 REPEAT

Then you begin to gain real stability.

Now in this section of Romans we see the Apostle Paul teaching predominantly Gentile Bels, teaching that faith is the issue for not only salvation, but also our continued walk with God.

It is a powerful chapter on Justification by faith. It is also a powerful chapter that we all get to be graphed into the family of GOD by means of faith, not just the Jews.

Many Jewish Bels always held the belief that they would be the only blessed ones under Abraham.

They were given certain promises, covenants - and yet it was always clear GOD welcomed anyone who had the right faith!

/Rom 4:13 For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he **would be heir of the world** was not through the Law, but **through the righteousness of faith**.

Gen 22:18 And **in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed**, because you have obeyed My voice.”\

ALL the nations – plural, always used as a reference to everyone in the world. Also, notice… you obeyed MY voice.

There was no Mosaic Law when Abraham was alive.

Abraham is the bridge between Gentile and Jew.

Your free will and having the right faith have always been attached to the very core of the Bible.

Jesus Christ as the true, unique God-man, the savior, Lord of lords and King of kings and free will are taught throughout the Bible.

It is foundational from Genesis into Revelation.

[Rom 4:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/4/14/s_1050014) For if those who are of the Law are heirs, then faith is made void and the promise is nullified;

There is no human effort, human IQ or any merit from angels or humans that GOD needs.

In fact, it is always Christ dependent.

Your faith has a target - it is the person and work of TLJC!

Before salvation it was the tiniest amount of faith in Christ that God the HS took and brought you into eternal security, in union with Christ – Efficacious grace.

After salvation – your faith is required to grow into a stronger faith in the person and work of Christ.

/[Rom 4:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/4/15/s_1050015) for **the Law brings about wrath**, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.

No one can be pure, righteous and fulfill the justice system of GOD. Only Christ, therefore we NEED HIM to be able to walk in the temporal, then receive our resurrected eternal life.\

Abraham was always falling back on faith – which is seen in obedience.

Notice the Apostle Paul is not highlighting Abrahams many failures.

Because God the HS led Paul to teach the success of Abraham, because GOD cares about the end result.

 REPEAT

The Apostle Paul is not talking about having no law…no responsibility, he is proclaiming TLJC came and fulfilled everything!

/Abraham set the pattern for salvation by adjusting to the justice of God as a Gentile in uncircumcision, the NEW CREATURE was taught by the removal of the flesh. He also set the pattern for maturity, adjustment to the justice & plan of GOD habitually – waiting, growing as God came through for a supernatural birth (Isaac). Then growing to the point of sacrificing that same son (Gen 22).\

Abraham’s faith in Christ is the pattern for salvation and spiritual growth.

God recognizes real faith…growing faith and HE will even recognize a mustard seed of faith.

Yet the Believer that has already been born again and saved for many years, that faith has to have forward momentum.

God knows you will fumble; you will fail and sin. So, HE gave us all the tools needed and HIS abundant mercy and grace to cover us.

 REPEAT

We have to take responsibility and use our free will…our time, talent and treasure that HE blessed us with.

/[Rom 4:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/4/16/s_1050016) For **this reason *it is* by faith**, in order that *it may be* **in accordancewith grace,** so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, **not only to those who are of the Law,** but also to **those who are of the faith** of Abraham, who is **the father of us all**,

God’s grace plan operates at its highest level when real FAITH is effective.\

Not *only those of the LAW* – that speaks to the dispensation of Israel.

The faith of Abraham is in view…don’t miss that.

/Abraham’s faith was seen in obedience when he first became born again –

Gen 12:4 So Abram went *away* as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now **Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran**.\

Right from that first call - GOD told Abraham all the FAMILIES (plural) of the earth will be blessed.

The term HEBREW means - the one who has crossed over, the one who goes beyond the river.

Abram was born again – he crossed over, in a very obedient faith to the calling of GOD.

He continued in faith and even stumbled several times, yet never lost his faith.

[Rom 4:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/4/17/s_1050017) (as it is written: “I HAVE MADE YOU A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS”) in the presence of Him whom he believed, *that is,* God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that do not exist.

/[Rom 4:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/4/18/s_1050018) **In hope against hope he believed,** so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, “SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE.”

Abraham failed in his marriage, he sinned and he didn’t wait on the timing of GOD (Ismael). Yet he never lost his faith.\

*SO THAT HE MIGHT become a father of many nations* – Abraham had to have a positive and growing faith.

This hope against hope - is a form of a faith rest drill…because Abraham believed and put faith in the power and plan of GOD beyond human limitations.

God was going to bless him with a physical seed – a bloodline of a new people. Again, this was to gives us a shadow or typology of the NEW CREATURE in Christ.

Then a spiritual-blessings is highlighted for all the people of the earth, who have the faith as Abraham.

/[Rom 4:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/4/19/s_1050019) **Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated**(*katanoeō*) **his own body**, now *as good as* dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb;

He did not become weakened in faith because he had a solid faith, rooted in the relationship and word of GOD.\

KART-AH-NYE-A-O, this means Abraham was a deep thinker he had BD to pull from within his soul.

It means to fully observe and to truly understand, to perceive something to its fullest.

/[Rom 4:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/4/20/s_1050020) yet, with respect to the promise of God, **he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith**, giving glory to God,

*He did not waver* (aorist tense), meaning he had remained in this positive posture, past, present and future.\

Aorist tense is often pointing out the past, present and future, meaning it is done and it does not change.

[Rom 4:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/4/21/s_1050021) and being fully assured that what *God* had promised, He was able also to perform.

Faith is not something we work for in the flesh, it is a channel from our free will, that we positively acknowledge to receive what GOD has done for us.

 REPEAT

When the target is Jesus Christ your faith is completely accurate.

The target of your faith is imperative.

/Justification must precede all other blessings from the justice of God. At the moment of faith in Christ - JUSTIFCATION is recognized and everything follows immediately. All of the grace gifts were given in eternity past, once the justice system of GOD approved and calculated (Divine Decree) every scenario, it all then is complete, perfect. Only awaiting a trigger of faith in Christ.\

*/“Faith”* in Christ as the grace mechanics of salvation, adjustment to the justice of God, is the first system of faith. The terms *“promise”* or *God’s promises*, points out a second system: blessings from maturity begins with consistent adjusting to the justice of God. God demands integrity for blessing. This integrity begins with imputed divine righteousness at salvation. Then a consistent positive momentum of doctrine resident in the soul, which is pushing the Bel toward spiritual maturity. \

All of this takes repetitive use of the free will in the right direction– that coupled with all that GOD gives us from HIS grace plan.

/God in His grace, pure justice and righteousness provides all that His integrity demands. Imputed righteousness at salvation, rebound and spirituality for grace perception, accurate teaching and studying of Bible doctrine as the means of maturity. A unique power and relationship with not only Christ, but God the HS. Your weak faith is never the fault of GOD neglecting you! \

Everything begins and ends with the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Your faith will not grow from studying and focusing on anything that is false related to TLJC.

/Phl 4:19 And **my God will supply all your needs**according to His riches in glory **in Christ Jesus**.

1Pet 5:6 Therefore **humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God**, so that **He may exalt you** at the proper time, 7 having **cast all your anxiety on Him,** because He cares about you.\

Humility is teachability and the journey needs to begin with that mindset.

/Psa 34:10 The young lions do without and suffer hunger; But **they who seek the LORD will not lack any good thing**. 11 Come, you children, listen to me**; I will teach you the fear of the LORD**.

Lam 3:25 The LORD is good to those **who await Him**, To the person who **seeks Him**. \

/2Cor 9:8 And **God is able to make all grace overflow to you**, so that, always having **all sufficiency in everything**, you may have an **abundance** for every good deed;

Eph 3:20 Now **to Him who is able to do far more abundantly** beyond all that we ask or think, according to the **power that works within us,\**