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A Two-Souled Individual
by Bill Lockwood

What is a “two-souled” person? The concept doesn’t sound appealing—and indeed it is not. In the NT book of James, the inspired writer indicts many people who wear the name of Christ as being “two-souled.” The word is normally translated by “double-minded.” Regarding prayer, James commands that we “ask in faith, nothing doubting; for he that doubts is like the surge (wave) of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed; let not *that man* think he shall receive anything from the Lord, a **double-minded man**, unstable in all his ways” (1:7, 8).

“Double-minded” comes from a word which literally translates “two souls” and it aptly describes where many so-called Christians are in their lack of dedication to Christ. It describes the person who is “doubting” and filled with “irresolution”—just will not live a consistent Christian life. “He is false in both directions; false to God and false to the world by his reservation” (Lange’s Commentary).

The very next line in James 1:8 depicts this person as “unstable” in all his ways. That is to say, he is “wavering” and becomes seditious because he is driven by the storms of life. James even uses the term “wave of the sea”—which is blown about by the wind—to capture the essence of this person. Instead of influencing those around him, the two-souled person becomes a chameleon in a society with many changing colors.

Again, the idea encompasses a person who has competing allegiances. He or she may “go to church,” but as far as being a faithful follower of Christ, that is less important than being successful in business or with friends. Even entertainment takes a higher priority. Divided allegiance. We like the idea of church and we prefer to consider ourselves “Christian,” but those around us simply know us as a “good person”—certainly not a dedicated follower of Jesus Christ.

America is facing difficult times; not only economically, but culturally. Weathering storms of life, whether personally or culturally, will not occur unless we have our feet solidly planted on the rock of truth.