

S.A.F.E. Homes

Strengthening Apostolic Families Everywhere



*“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”
James 1:8*

Standing Firm

Many of us have seen the cartoon images of a tiny imaginary angel sitting on one shoulder of a man and a tiny demon on the other, each whispering messages to influence his decision-making. The Apostle James must have been well aware of this struggle of the mind, especially from a Christian standpoint.

How often do we struggle to stand firm, unshakeable in our faith, when temptation or persecution arises? The Apostle Peter found out about double-mindedness just before the crucifixion of Jesus. As long as he was with Jesus, seeing the miracles he performed and enjoying the teaching, Peter was alright. He firmly declared his loyalty to Jesus, “Although all shall be offended, yet will not I” (Mark 14:29).

Just hours later, after Jesus was arrested and dragged off to be tried like a criminal and crucified, we find Peter singing a different song! As Peter warmed his hands at the fire a little maid recognized him as one of Jesus’ followers and loudly declared it, “You are one of his followers. You were with Jesus!” Peter looked up in shock, and what was his reaction? “He began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak,” (Mark 14:71).

How sad and tragic! The man who was with Jesus for three and a half years, denied that he even knew him. What caused this double-mindedness in Peter? Was it fear? Shame? Weakness of character? Whatever it was, the Bible says Peter went out and wept bitterly (Luke 22:62). A few weeks after this incredible failure, Peter along with many others gathered in the Upper Room in Jerusalem where they filled with the power of the Holy Ghost. Gone was the double-minded man of a few days earlier. That day Peter stood up with boldness and preached the gospel of Jesus Christ to the crowd gathered around. From that day forward, Peter had a single focus to serve God with all his heart no matter what.

How about you? Isn’t it time to stop wavering between God and the world? It is no secret that God blesses single-minded commitment!

Family Prayer: *Dear Jesus, help me to stand strong for You even during times of fear or temptation. I want to be one hundred percent committed to You! In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

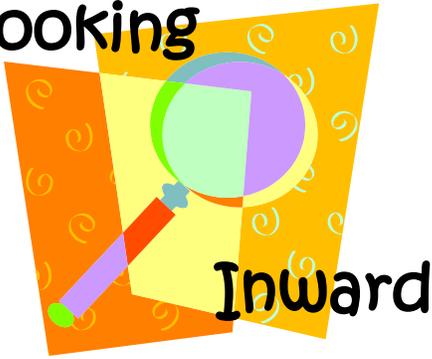


Includes
Family
Activities



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Bonus Pages

Looking



Inward

Let's have a relay race. Contestants must balance a pencil or similar object crossway on their nose and make it to the finish line. When they have successfully done that, they run back to the next person in line and pass the pencil for their turn. Do you notice how "unstable" the pencil is as it wobbles from side to side? Hopefully this is not a picture of our spiritual life!

Let's talk

This is a note from the editor. When I was in high school there was another girl from my church who was in my gym class. We both explained to the teacher that we didn't "dress out" in the typical gym clothes. During the school year, the other girl "backslid" and decided to dress out. A few weeks later she repented and came back to holiness standards. This happened two or three times that year. One day the teacher approached me and said, "I respect you for what you believe, but I have no respect for her." Discuss what effect this type of double-mindedness has on the people who are watching.

If you haven't done so already, we encourage you to create a S.A.F.E. HOMES Devotions scrapbook with pictures, crafts, and other memories from your family devotional time. We would love to hear from you. Simply select the email option on the safehomesdevotions.org homepage and share a quick comment. Your input is valuable and cherished!

Looking



Outward

Additional Challenges

Just before Jesus' crucifixion, he had a very serious conversation with his disciples in Mark, chapter 14:

“And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall _____ me.

Some instability was evident in their response!

And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, _____? and another said, _____?”

Later Jesus furthered this discussion:

“And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be _____ because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the _____ and the _____ shall be scattered.”

Listen to Peter's response to this: “Although all shall be _____, yet will not I.” “If I should _____ with thee, I will not _____ thee in any wise.”

At that moment, Peter probably meant what he said, but today's lesson shows that his actions said otherwise. Unfortunately, verse 50 paints a bleak picture.

“And they all _____ him, and _____.”

Praise God, that is not the end of the story! Notice what the Book of Acts says about the Day of Pentecost:

“(2:14)But Peter, _____ with the eleven, lifted up his _____ ...”

It was Peter who boldly proclaimed the plan of salvation that day. Gone was the double-minded man of a few weeks earlier. Here was a man that God would use to usher in the New Testament church.

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

God will use those who stand firm!

**Stand firm and
follow Jesus!**

