

## A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE LETTER OF JAMES

### CONFIDENT PRAYER – PART 2

James 1:7-8 “For that person (one who doubts or lacks confidence in God) must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

The opposite of faith is doubt (James 1:6.) James said in verse 6 that failure to pray in faith with confidence to God is to live one’s life at the mercy of the forces of this world. Living in this manner has no certainty. One can have no confidence. Elsewhere in the Bible Jesus said in a parable this is like building a house on the sands of the seashore. (Matthew 7:26ff)

Here in verses 7 & 8, James says the one who doubts God or lacks confidence in Him is “unstable in all his ways.” A commentator says that being double-minded means while at the same time claiming to trust in God one vacillates no longer putting trust in God. Rather they place their faith and trust in themselves, the world and/or the things of the world. You and I know that what the world offers is here today and gone tomorrow. Jesus says, in His parable, the outcome of being double-minded is, “. . . when the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, it fell. . .” (Matthew 7:27)

Instead of double-mindedness, the Psalmist offers you these words to pray in regard to your prayer life, “Send forth Your light and Your truth, let them guide me; let them bring me to Your holy mountain, to the place where You dwell.” (Psalm 43:3) What St. Paul found in his life is also true for you, “I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him for that day.” (2 Timothy 1:12) No matter what is happening in your life, entrusting everything in faith, confident in God’s grace and mercy, you “know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28) His “grace is sufficient for you, for His power is made perfect in your weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9) “Since He is for you, nothing can be against you.” (Romans 8:31)

Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, send Your Holy Spirit into my heart to work faith in me to trust and believe and be confident in Your promises to be with me throughout my life journey. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I walk in danger all the way. The thought shall never leave me  
That Satan, who has marked his prey, Is plotting to deceive me.  
This foe with hidden snares May seize me unawares  
If I should fail to watch and pray. I walk in danger all the way.

I pass through trials all the way, With sin and ills contending;  
In patience I must bear each day The cross of God's own sending.  
When in adversity I know not where to flee,  
When storms of woe my soul dismay, I pass through trials all the way.

I walk with Jesus all the way, His guidance never fails me;  
Within His wounds I find a stay When Satan's pow'r assails me;  
And by His footsteps led, My path I safely tread.  
No evil leads my soul astray;  
I walk with Jesus all the way.

My walk in heav'nward all the way; Await, my soul, the morrow,  
When God's good healing shall allay All suff'ring, sin, and sorrow.  
Then, worldly pomp, begone! To heav'n I now press on.  
For all the world I would not stay; My walk is heav'nward all the way.  
(LSB 716, vv 1-2, 5-6)