

WHY AM I SO CONFUSED?

She was a young mother of three. As she sat at the table, she rested her head on her hands. She tried to speak, but tears came instead. Finally, after composing herself, she softly spoke, "One person tells me I'm wrong in certain areas of my life. Another person tells me this is my problem. I just don't know what is right anymore. I'm totally confused!" As she slowly looked up, she continued, "I don't know where to turn for answers. Why am I so confused?"

Have you ever felt like this lady? Have you ever found yourself confused about things, not knowing what to believe or think? In this study, we want to discover the cause of confusion and the solution.

I. WHAT IS CONFUSION?

A. Definition: "A state of disorder, bewilderment; failure to distinguish between things." (Webster's New World Dictionary)

B. To be confused is to:

- * Be bewildered.
- * Be tossed here and there.
- * Be adrift.
- * Be mixed up.
- * Be disoriented.
- * Have lost your bearings.
- * Have no hope.

1. Do you feel any of the above?
2. Describe your feelings?

II. WHERE DOES CONFUSION COME FROM?

A. The wrong source of wisdom.

(13) "Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. (14) But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. (15) This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. (16) For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing."

[James 3:13-16]

1. Where does jealousy and selfish ambition reside (v.14)?
2. Many think nothing of being jealous or having selfish ambition.

3. What does God call jealousy and selfish ambition (v.15)?
4. There are two sources of wisdom in the world.
5. If one doesn't use the wisdom from above, where will you be lead into (v.16)?
6. Notice "disorder" is a state of being for those using the wrong source of wisdom.
7. What do you think the devil's goal would be for us?
8. Does the devil care if you get hurt or if you are confused?
9. How easy is it for us to be self-centered (selfish ambition)?
10. If one uses the natural wisdom from below, what will most likely happen in your life?
11. Could this create a serious problem within people?

B. The right source of wisdom.

(17) "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. (18) And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace." [James 3:17-18]

1. What will wisdom from above bring about in your life (v.17)?
2. Compare the wisdom from below to the wisdom from above (v.15-17).
3. What direction will the wisdom from below take your life?
4. What direction will the wisdom from above take your life?
5. Notice the wisdom from above is "peaceable" (v.17) and those who use that source of wisdom sow peace and make peace (v.18).

"For God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints."
[I Corinthians 14:33]

6. Is God the source of confusion?
7. Where will God always take someone?

III. WHERE WILL CONFUSION LEAD YOU IF LEFT UNCHECKED?

A. If one doesn't seek the proper source of wisdom, continuing the same path, what will happen to their life in the future?

B. If one doesn't do anything about their confused state of being, can they expect to get better or worse?

IV. HOW DOES ONE SOLVE THEIR CONFUSION?

A. One must go to the right source for answers.

(5) "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. (6) But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. (7) For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, (8) being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways." [James 1:5-8]

1. Is there help available (v.5)?
2. How much help is available?
3. The word "reproach" means God will not revile you or belittle you for not knowing.
4. What is the condition for God's wisdom (v.6)?
5. What does it mean "without doubting?"
6. What does it mean "to be tossed about?"
7. Do you find yourself looking to God for answers or are you controlled by others or circumstances?
8. How serious is God in order to receive His help (v.7)?
9. God does not take second place and won't allow anyone to take advantage of Him.
10. If one doesn't look to God for their help and answers, where does it leave you (v.8)?
11. What takes place in your mind and life (v.8)?

ILLUSTRATION:

In a recent lottery, millions of dollars were up for grabs. Come to find out, they released the odds of one winning and they were 1 in 9,458,000. How confident could you be of winning? Considering the odds, would that be a false faith?

12. If one goes to God, looking only to Him for answers and wisdom, what are your chances?

13. How sure is God's word?

14. Will God keep His promises?

15. If we are certain, without a doubt He will keep His promises, why are we confused?

B. God's promises are sure!

(18)"But as God is faithful, our word to you is not yes and no. (19) For the Son of God, Christ Jesus, who was preached among you by us - by me and Silvanus and Timothy - was not yes and no, but is yes in Him. (20) For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; there also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us." [II Corinthians 1:18-20]

1. What do you learn about God (v.18)?

2. Did Paul (me) Silvanus and Timothy teach different things by confusing issues (v.19)?

3. Are God's promises sure and can be counted on (v.20)?

CONCLUSION:

The reason most stay confused is because they never get single minded, looking in one direction. If we become single minded, what will start happening in your life?

ILLUSTRATION:

How many times do you think an expert marksman could hit a bulls-eye if he were blindfolded? What does he have to do? What about your life? Can you find peace, strength, and freedom from pain without the wisdom from above?

(13)"How blessed is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding. (14) For her profit is better than the profit of silver and her gain better than fine gold. (15) She is more precious than jewels; and nothing you desire compares with her. (16) Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. (17) Her ways are pleasant ways and all her paths are peace. (18) She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who hold her fast." [Proverbs 3:13-18]