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*Growing a Faith that Works – A Series in James – Week 2 – Mother’s Day*

## BECOMING A STRONG, STABLE SELF

*The Example of Two Famous Mothers | James 1:6-8*

By Rod MacIlvaine

**Introduction:** All of us seek personal strength. It’s a deep-seated, felt need. Just look at all the ads on social media and all the commercials on television that seem to promise it in abundance. However, while this is clearly an essential need, the best way to acquire personal strength is elusive: Some seek it by enhancing their physical attributes, others through intellectual prowess, still others through amassing financial or political clout. Yet even those who gain a measure of power say they feel something is missing. In the Bible, God’s desire is that we become strong and stable *through* our growing relationship with him. In fact, on many occasions God promises increasing strength as we learn to walk by faith. To Joshua he said, “*Be strong and courageous. For the LORD your God goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.*” That promise, and others like it, encourage us to pursue strength through God’s kingdom presence. In James 1:6-8, he talks about a **faulty** mindset that actually does just the reverse. This mindset reduces our sense of strength. It’s a mindset that casts us onto a sea of agitation and disquiet. Today, I want to show you 1) what this mindset is, 2) what it looks like in action, and 3) how we grow past it toward true strength.

### 1. The Problem of an Unstable Self

*James 1:6-8*

### 2. Negative Example – Rachel

*Gen. 29:6—35:21*

### **3. Positive Example – Deborah**

*Judges 4-5*

### **4. Idea**

### **5. Takeaway**