

March 5, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

James 1:17 *Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with Whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.* (NIV)

James is very descriptive and to the point when he writes. It cuts through any ‘flowery’ language and straight to the heart of the matter. With that thought in mind, we see him using the word ‘**every**’ in the first part of this verse. The Greek term for *every* is **pasa** which means *all, the whole, completeness, totality and perfect*. James is letting us know that as prevalent as sin is in this world, everything that is perfect and good and wholesome comes from the LORD Himself. There is nothing good unless it comes from Him. He alone is completely good and right and perfect.

I believe that we have been told that there is good in all of us. When in essence, Paul reminds us in **Rom. 3:9-12** *What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles are all under the power of sin. As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”* (NIV) And so our only hope is that we can receive the complete and perfect gift of God Himself. And that gift is salvation through Jesus Christ and sanctification through the Holy Spirit. As the Father of lights, He is shining His grace, mercy, life and love to anyone who will receive Him. That is why Jesus made such a contrastive proclamation in **John 10:10** *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life and have it to the full.* (NIV) The only way that you can know this kind of life is to know the giver of it. You cannot purchase it, for it was purchased with the precious blood of the Lamb of God. You cannot earn it, because we are all disqualified by our own sin. This perfect gift can only come from the One Who is perfect. And, by the way, He is the One Who loves you with His perfect love.

Dear LORD, You are perfect in all of Your ways. You are the giver of all good things. We choose to look to You alone for everything that we need. Thank You dear Father. In Jesus Name, Amen