

James 1:16–18

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

¹⁸ Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

“The Father of Lights” **James 1:17**

INTRO:

Today is Fathers’ Day. It seems appropriate to explore the great example of what a perfect father should be by looking at God our heavenly Father. Our study this Father’s Day will focus on our God as *“the Father of Lights.”*

Our text is found in **James 1:17** where we read, *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”* As we explore this text we will look at in two parts.

I. The Gifts that God Gives.

II. The God Who Gives.

I. The Gifts that God Gives.

A. As with any text, before we can understand what James is saying to us here, we need to understand the context. This verse is found in a paragraph beginning in **verse 16** and concludes in **verse 18**. Here is the paragraph.

“Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, [in order] that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.”

1. One lie that Satan works very hard to peddle is that God is not good. He tried this lie out for the first time in the Garden of Eden with Eve and it worked. So, in **verses 16-17**, James warned us to not be taken in by this ploy.

“Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

2. Having stated that God is the source of all good gifts we receive, James reminded us of the best gift we received from our heavenly Father.

“Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.”

B. What did James say about what God gave to us?

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

James made two statements about the gifts God gave.

1. First, everything good comes from God. We are all aware that both good and evil exist in this world. Our problem in this pluralistic society is figuring out what is good and what is evil. The Word of God distinguishes between good and evil. That distinction is absolute and never changes. Every good thing comes from God. Apart from Him there is nothing ***“good”*** in the world. The gifts God gives are both ***“good,”*** beneficial to us, and ***“perfect,”*** complete and lacking nothing to meet our needs. God is the generous giver of all things good in our lives.

2. Second, James told us these gifts are coming down from God continually. The indication is that there is a continual, unending stream of blessing coming out from our Heavenly Father to us.

C. So, our God is the source of all the good in this sin cursed world, and He is continually pouring out His blessing upon us. He gives good things and blessings to both the ungodly and the godly.

II. The God Who Gives.

A. James told us all about the blessings we receive from the God Who is so good to us. He underlined this truth because we are too easily deceived into believing God is not good to us. James also reminded us Who this God is Who is so good to us. Listen to our text again.

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of the lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

B. What does it mean that God is ***“the Father of the Lights,”*** and why does James describe God in this way? First, when James describes God the Father as ***“the Father of the Lights,”*** he is referring to the lights that illuminate creation.

1. In our naturalistic world it is easy for us to forget God created the lights in our sky. He created the sun, the moon, and the stars. We read in **Genesis 1:14-16;** ***“Then God said, ‘Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and***

years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth'; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also"

2. This fact reminds us of the infinitude and power of our God. It also reminds us that God is the source of the light that they give. Just as our Father created and sustains the sun, moon and stars, He is able to do all good to us continually.

3. It also reminds us to remember and praise and glorify God for these reminders of His power and might.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork"
(Psalm 19:1).

Finally, it reminds us this God, Who is able to speak stars into space, ***"is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, above all we could ask or think,"*** (Ephesians 2:20). He desires to do good for us. Aren't you glad He cannot do evil to us?

C. Why did this title appeal to James when he wrote these verses? Probably because James wanted to remind us that while God is the source of all physical illumination, He is also the One Who illuminates us spiritually.

D. This leads James to remind us of the greatest gift God the Father gave to us.
"Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures." (James 1:18)

Because God turned on the light in our hearts, we responded to the truth and received the blessing of our eternal salvation. **Titus 3:4-5** says,
"But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit."

E. James then drew the important application to this truth in answer to the lie Satan loves to try to make us believe. James wrote in **verse 17b**.
"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."

Our Heavenly Father does not change. **[1]** God is unchangeable in His holiness and glory. **[2]** His love is also unchangeable. The God of **Psalm 136** is our Heavenly Father. As the Psalmist wrote 22 times in these verses, ***"His steadfast love is forever and ever."*** He will never change His mind about those who belong to Him. He will never reject us, if we have come to Him by faith. Because He has saved us and in Him there is ***"no variation or shadow of turning."***

This makes me think of a song.

***Jesus my Lord will love me forever
From Him no pow'r of evil can sever
He gave His life to ransom my soul
Now I belong to Him***

***Now I belong to Jesus
Jesus belongs to me
Not for the years of time alone
But for eternity.***

511 Now I belong to Jesus