

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE LETTER OF JAMES

WHAT GOD DOES DO

James 1:16-18 “Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first-fruits of His creatures.”

There is much negative criticism of the church, Christianity and of God Himself. Much of it addresses what critics believe God ought to do, but either fails or refuses to do or what God permits. The criticism is obviously based upon human expectations of God. The Bible describes this as the clay pot trying to tell the potter how it should be made.

Isaiah 45 has a pertinent discussion regarding the potter and the clay, “Woe to those who quarrel with their Maker. . . Does the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you making?’ Does your work say, ‘The potter has no hands’? “This is what the LORD says— the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker: Concerning things to come, do you question me about my children, or give me orders about the work of my hands? It is I who made the earth and created mankind on it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts. ‘Surely God is with you, and there is no other; there is no other god.’ ” (Isaiah 45:9-14)

While sinful man accuses God of leading him into sin (James 1:13-15,) it is just the opposite writes James, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first-fruits of His creatures.” (James 1:16-18)

God gives you good and perfect gifts, both earthly and spiritual. He causes the rain to fall, seeds to germinate and food for your body. He gives you all you need to support your body and life. (see Psalm 145:15-16) His greatest gift given to you is His Son and faith in Him through which you receive His forgiveness of all your sins and promise of eternal life.

Prayer: Give me a grateful heart, O Lord, for all Your good and precious gifts. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.
Give Thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give Thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.
And now let the weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give Thanks, Give thanks.
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