

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE LETTER OF JAMES

WHAT GOD DOES DO – PART 2

James 1:17-18 “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of all he created.”

You lack nothing because God gives you good and perfect gifts. He is faithful in doing this for you, says James, never varying His benevolence to you. St. Paul says, “Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient. . .” (2 Corinthians 3:4-6)

St. Paul, in 1 Thessalonians 4 exhorts God’s people in Thessalonica and us, “. . .study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and *that* ye may have lack of nothing.” (KJV - verses 11-12) This exhortation is dependent upon the Thessalonians faith in God’s providential care. For the Bible says to us Christians, “We walk by faith and not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:7)

What God does is be present with you always in the person and work of His Son Jesus. This is Jesus’ personal promise to you, “Lo, I am with you always to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20) For Jesus says, “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I also.” (Matthew 18:20) And yet again Jesus promises, “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.” (John 14:18-19)

By God’s grace you have been made new. This happened when you were baptized. “We (you) were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we (you) too might walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4) In this new life you have been set free from sin. (Romans 8:2) So, “Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.” (Colossians 3:10)

Prayer: Guide, O my Great Redeemer, to Your promised land. Amen

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, Be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.
(LSB 918)