

**Message: Our Good Father**  
**Christ Community Church – Daytona Beach, FL**  
6/16/2024

- AW Tozer famously said the following: “what comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us”.
- 
- Let me give you some examples of what I mean, these represent categories of thought when it comes people and their view of God.
- The Distant/Disconnected god - This is some distant far away God, maybe he is running the universe, but he certainly doesn't seem to worry or care about you. He's just out there somewhere in the universe doing whatever he does.
- The Grandfather god - This is the kind, lovable sweet old man god, he's got a robe and a long white beard.
- He's been around forever and he isn't as sharp as he used to be but he's just so kind, he always has something nice to say and he never ever judges me.
- The Brimstone god - This is the hell, fire, brimstone and damnation god. This god is always looking to drop the hammer on us, he just waits for us to mess up and then he brings it.
- The Accountant god - This is the god that is always watching and keeping track of all the bad we do, everything is about keeping score.
- With this god, we just try do more good than bad, we just hope there is more good than bad at the end.
- The Stained Glass god - This is the god that lives in old church buildings, he loves the organ, old hymns, wooden pews, stained glass, and he especially loves the old way of doing church
- You really only see him when you go into old church buildings.

- The Siri god - This is the god we pray to when we want something, need some information, need some insight to get out of a tough spot. So, like Siri, we just say, hey god, you there?
- What's great about this god is that he doesn't bother you, he only speaks when you ask him to and as soon as you are finished with him, you can just turn him off until you need him again.
- Now, just in case it is not obvious, all of these are false views of God, this is not who God is revealed to be.
- In our text today, James corrects our view and understanding of God, who he is and what he does.
  
- Let me start by reading James 1:12-18.
- *Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.*
- *16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. 17 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. 18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*
- 
- **Main Idea: God does not tempt us, we are tempted as a result of our own internal evil desires.**

- So, let's go into some depth on V17, I'm going to break it down by giving you three truths about God and his gifts.
- Let's look at the first one.
- **Truths About God and his Gifts**
- **1) Our God is good and he gives good gifts.**
- V17 - *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above...*
- 
- **2) These good gifts are heavenly sent from our good Father in heaven.**
- V17 - *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights...*
- **3) Our Father God is not moody, temperamental or impatient; no, he is tenaciously steadfast in his unchanging goodness.**
- V17 - *with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*
- V17 – (NIV) - *who does not change like shifting shadows.*
- 
- We never forget that unbelievable feeling of holding our child for the first time, you see fatherhood is connected to birth, to life.
- Keep that in mind and look at what James tells us next in v18.
- V18 - *He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.*
- Do you know what this is? James is giving us evidence of the goodness of our Father, and how does he do it?
- By telling us that our good Father gave us spiritual new birth, we are his children, how did we become his children?
- The Father's will, he chose us, by his Word, he is our Father because he chose to be, we are his children because he chose us to be – this is evidence of a good Father that gives good gifts.

## Closing

- Let me now leave you with three summary thoughts to consider about your good Father.
- **1) Our Father God is good!**
- No matter what your experience and circumstance is shouting to you, listen to the Word of God, your God is good, if you are a true believer, then you are his child and he is your good Father.
- **2) Our Father's good gifts to us are not earned, they are heaven sent, the outflow of our Father's goodness.**
- They are gifts in every sense of the word, we did not earn the gift, it is a true gift, given from the generous heart of our God and Father.
- **3) Our Father's good gifts to us are complete – they lack nothing.**
- The gift of new birth, Jesus (Jn 3:16)
- Spirit (1 Jn 4:13) – *By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.*
- Salvation/ eternal life (Rom. 6:23) - *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- Grace (Eph 2:8-9) – *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God...*
- Wisdom – James 1:5
- Spiritual gifts (1Pet. 4:10-11) – *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards...*
- And so much more...
- Take time to search the scriptures this week for all of the 'gifts' God has given us and remember, they are good, complete and all given from our good Father in heaven.
- So, as we connect the entire passage, what can we see and conclude?
- **>>We see that sin comes from within us (v12-16) but good gifts come from our good father above. (v17-18)**