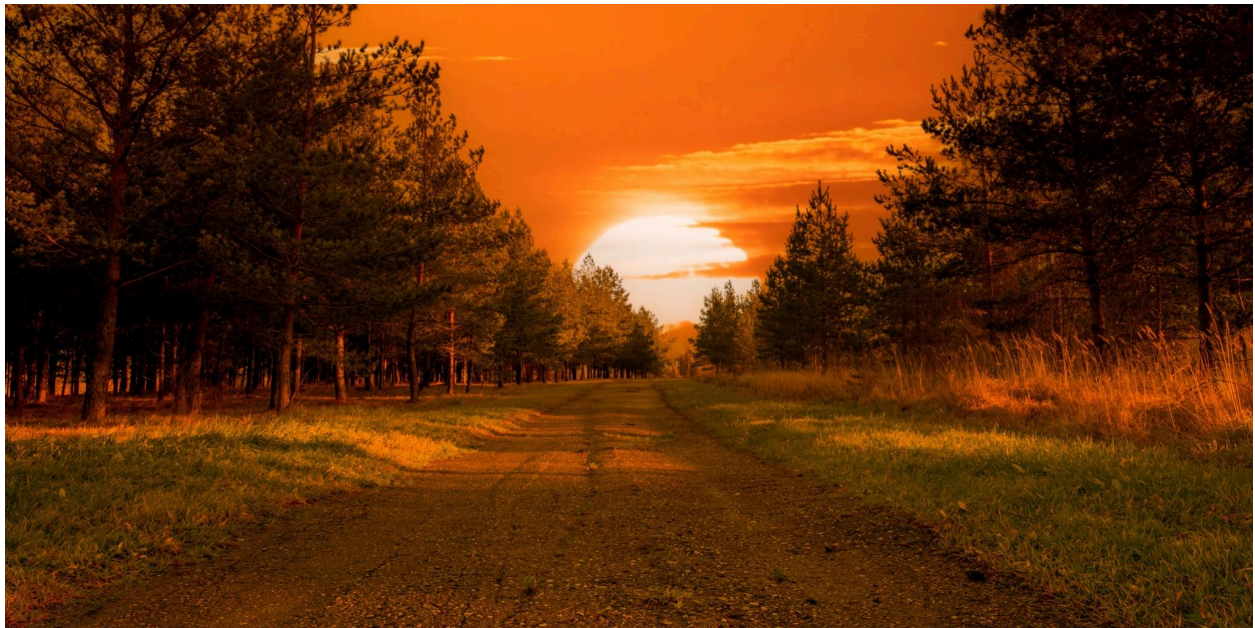


Living The Word Devotionals



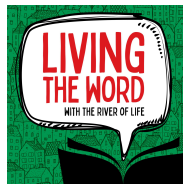
All The Time He Is Good



By Ariana Marshall

“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.” ESV James 1:17

Reading this, I am reminded of a story I heard when I listened to the rapper KB when he preached a message at Passion about the goodness of God. He told this story about his friend who had buried his son. And during the grief and the sorrow his friend still looked at KB and said, “*God is good.*” This means that though this gut

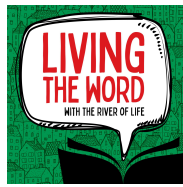


wrenching, God is still with me, He has not left or abandoned me and he believes because of the gospel this isn't the end and he will hold his baby again while standing by the Father. In this verse, James is telling the reader this same thing. He wants them to be aware of this truth that when temptation, sin and heartache come creeping into our lives we can tend to look at God differently or feel some type of way like God I don't know about you anymore. Because when things start to get hard, life gets to be too much and temptation feels like it is getting the best of us, it can start to make us doubt if God is really for us or against us.

I mean let's be honest, I hate to admit it but when my flesh fails me and the weight of my sin and the weight of life becomes too much to bear my emotions and sinful way of thinking causes me to question God's goodness and His love. When in reality I am the one changing, not God.

James is telling us to set our eyes above. Quit looking at the messiness of our circumstances, of our flesh, of whatever is causing us to doubt and be reminded of our Father and who He is! Come to Him with it all. Lay it at His feet.

As James said, The Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. I love how one commentator put this, "He is the source of light. The sun can never be in the shadow. If we turn away from Him, we go only deep into the shadow. Turning from God in order to escape hardship is as ridiculous as hiding from the sun in an effort to escape darkness."



Don't be a fool. Don't get it twisted. Every good gift is from God and God alone because He is the source of all good and He is the source of all the good you want and desire! So on the mountain tops, lift praises for His goodness, and in the valleys, in the trenches, in the dark and lonely places where you feel alone, cry out in praise of the One who is still good even when life feels anything but good. Cling to Yahweh. Cling to the Maker of the heavens and the earth and worship Him for He is good all the time and all the time he is good.

So, I'll leave you with this. Who is the source of good in your life? Is it yourself, the view of others, or is it Jesus Christ?

Make your move, Christian.

Lord, you are so good, and sometimes I forget just how good you are because my eyes aren't fixed on you. Lord remind me and those listening that every good gift they have and hold dear came from you and allow that to bring them joy that you sought that good gift for them and them alone. Let it be a time a rejoice and praise as they see the gifts and fall and worship you. And let it be a reminder of Your goodness when life doesn't feel good because in all things and all seasons, Jesus Christ, you are the source of good! Amen.

