

## James: Faith at Work

### "Do Not Be Deceived; God is a Good Gift Giver"

James 1:16-18

Sunday, June 7th, 2026

#### ~ *An Important Reminder:*

We are not quite out of the introduction to this letter, which means we need to see the truths James has for us here in the context of trials and persecutions.

~ At face value, we might see that James is trying to communicate an important truth about deception and good gifts from God. In Truth; James is wanting to connect his statement on deception back to his command to count trials of various kinds as a joy.

#### 1. A Warning About \_\_\_\_\_

~ There are roughly 90 appearances in the Bible of the words deceit, deceive, or deception.

\* Matthew 24:4 - "And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray."

\* Colossians 2 - "See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit..."

\* Ephesians 5:6 - "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience."

> We need truth! This is not negotiable. Therefore we must fight against being deceived. Thankfully, we have seen and been saved by truth ... Jesus himself is truth = \*John 14:6\*

~ Here in this part of the opening, James wants to correct their perceptions and redirect them towards truth.

~ The way we perceive and receive information matters. So we must not be deceived. Believing something that is 98% true is still **not** absolutely truth.

~ Many teachers/pastors have treated this section of Scripture as one unit - if you look at our text from last week - vs. 13-15 and let vs. 16-18 follow, you see that James is giving us the *negative* and the *positive* of temptation and trials.

#### 2. A Statement Regarding \_\_\_\_\_

~ A more literal reading of this verse actually should read in this way: "***All good giving and every perfect gift is from above.***"

~ Our human tendencies make us forget certain aspects of God's character when life isn't going our way. We have to work hard and trust the Holy Spirit to remind us that God has not changed!

"God is perpetually, constantly, and consistently good. He never gets in a bad mood. He never changes for the worse, and He never changes for the better because He is already perfectly and ultimately and wonderfully good in every way, and you can't get any better than God. If he could change for the better, that would mean He wasn't ultimately good in the first place, but He is."

- David Platt

#### 3. A Message Concerning Our \_\_\_\_\_

~ Vs 18 - James said that "we are a kind of first fruits" of His creatures. This little phrase pictures a day and a reality that is yet to come. *cf.* \*Romans 8:20-23\*

#### OT confirmations of what we see here in the NT:

Ps 18:30 - "*This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.*"

Ps 19:7 - "*The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple..*"