



Good and Perfect Gifts



James explained, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." (James 1:17).

Some are deceived into thinking that the temporary gratification of sin is a "good and perfect gift." The pleasures of adultery are undeniable. Revenge can bring quick and cheap gratification. Crushing another's feelings by cruel words and gossip can bring a warped kind of pleasure.

But these are not gifts from above. They are not "good and perfect gifts." They are tainted, tarnished, and temporary.

Then there are those blessings that don't immediately appear to be blessings. James has already pointed out how trials can bring blessings such as faith and perseverance and spiritual maturity (James 1:3-4).

- The gift of loneliness makes us seek the fellowship of God.
- The gift of failure makes us more understanding of those who fail.
- The gift of erring gives us the ability to forgive those who err against us.
- The gift of sorrow makes us better qualified to sympathize with those who grieve.

Not every gift looks like one. Don't be deceived. Trust the Father, who is not capricious, who does not lash out because He's "having a bad day." He doesn't; and even heartache may be a gift of love.

- Stan Mitchell, Henderson, TN (*House to House*) -

HE HAD NO SERVANTS

Jesus had no servants, yet *they called Him Master.*

He had no degree, yet *they called Him Teacher.*

He had no medicines, yet *they called Him Healer.*

He had no army, yet *kings feared Him.*

He won no military battles, yet *He conquered the world.*

He committed no crime, but *they crucified Him.*

He was buried in a tomb, yet *He lives today.*

"Follow me." Luke 9:23

- Author Unknown -

No room is more spacious than the room for improvement of ourselves.

News & Notes

SYMPATHY: To Sharon Williams & family at the recent passing of her sister, Ruth Wright. God bless and comfort the family at this time.

NEW CONVERT CLASS: Each Sunday a.m. Bible Class in Room 406. This class is for those who were baptized in the last three years.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. All the ladies are invited and urged to help in this good work.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES: Each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m., (for only one hour). All the men are asked to be present for this class.

PANTRY: Canned fruit & applesauce.

SICK & SHUT-IN: David Stefl, Joe Collins, Mary Jane Bowers, Mary Helen Riley, Linda Wiersbicki, Fred Larrimore, Blondenia Orr, Betty Henthorne, Doris Dunham, Tom Wells (ex-husband of Claudette Miller). **FOX NURSING HOME:** Mary Nelson. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller, Jim Mick. **CALCUTTA**

HEALTH CARE: Ella Beagle. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

Satan's Dart Hits Home

Satan attacked a Christian. First, he shot a poisonous dart at the Christian's heel, but the Christian was unharmed because he had his feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace (Eph. 6:15).

Satan's next attempt was at his loins, but the Christian repelled this because he had his loins girded about with truth (Eph. 6:14).

Unsuccessfully, the Devil tried a shot at his breast, but there he wore the breastplate of righteousness (Eph. 6:14).

The Christian knocked away other darts with the shield of faith and his helmet, and his sword repelled another (Eph. 6:16, 17).

But the Devil, not discouraged, slipped around behind the Christian and shot him in the pocketbook, and killed him dead as a hammer!

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudging, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." - 2 Corinthians 9:7

- San Augustine Church of Christ, San Augustine, TX [adapted], (via *Bulletin Digest*) -

A Christian Is ...

C - haritable in disposition. (Eph. 4:31-32)

H - umble in attitude. (Eph. 4:1-2)

R - eliable in his dealings. (Rom. 12:17)

I - mmaculate in his personal life. (James 1:27)

S - incere in motive. (Col. 3:22-23)

T - ruthful in speech. (Col. 3:9)

I - ndustrious with his hands. (Eph. 4:28)

A - new creature. (2 Cor. 5:17)

N - eighborly with his fellows. (Luke 10:30-37)