

“Believing in the Goodness of God”
James 1:16-20

Belief in the goodness of God is crucial to a mature and growing faith.

1. A Warning: The Danger of Being Deceived in this Matter v. 16

“Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.”

(1) An age-old lie: “God is not good.”

- Embraced by Adam in the garden!
- Native to our fallen flesh ever since! We commonly give way to deception here!

(2) A truth which looms large *particularly* when we are being tested!

Do we actually believe in the sovereign goodness of God?

- Testing by *various trials* v. 2
- Testing according to *my situation in life* vv. 9-10
- Testing *when exposed to temptation* vv. 13ff.

(3) Failure to believe in the goodness of God: A feature of double-mindedness! vv. 6-8

2. A Declaration of the Goodness of God vv. 17-18

*“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
and comes down from the Father of lights,*

(1) God gives what is good, what is perfect *with whom there is no variation
or shadow of turning.”*

- All things good have their source in God

Every good gift GK: DOSIS - “every good *giving*”
Every perfect gift GK: DOREMA “free-gift”

- All things good are continually coming from the throne of God

“is coming down” “keeps coming down”
Good things don’t “just happen!” Good gifts are gifts coming directly from God!

- All things good are continually coming according to God’s sovereign plan for me.

(2) God can only give what is good and perfect *“...the Father of lights,
with whom there is no variation
or shadow of turning.”*

- This is in accord with His nature!
cf. WSC 4

- He is the “Father of lights”
The parent, the origin, the source
Of light: especially truth and holiness

- With Him there is no variation or shadow of turning
God is always like himself!

(3) God from the beginning has only ever given what is good and perfect!

#1 Proof of the goodness of God in my life: *“Of His own will He brought us forth
by the word of truth, that we might be
a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.”*
He regenerated me!

He did so of His own good-will, not because He saw any good in me.
He is a cause to Himself!

The activity and manifestation of God’s goodness in my life did not stop there!!

3. An Application vv. 19-20

“So then my beloved brethren,

(1) Be swift to hear! *let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak,
slow to wrath; for the wrath of man
does not produce the righteousness of God.”*

Amid testing, give attention to His Word!

(2) Be slow to speak!

- Far better to be quiet and ponder and pray!!
- We’re generally wrong in anything we hastily say!

(3) Be slow to anger!

- Anger is the indicator that I am not listening
- Anger is the indicator that I am not believing in the goodness of God