

What God Has Given Believers

No. 296

Introduction.

I. James made this affirmation in James 1:17.

II. James is writing Christians, and he contends that "Every good and perfect gift...comes down from the Father of lights."

A. God has blessed all men, but especially believers.

B. Let us look at "What God Has Given Believers."

1. The benevolent God of heaven has given us so much.

2. Naming some of His blessings should humble us and make us indeed thankful.

I. **Eternal Life** - God has given believers eternal life.

A. The Bible teaches the wages of sin is death. (Rom. 6:23a).

1. Because of sin men were separated from God without any hope of redemption.

2. God did not want man to be lost, so out of His abundant grace He gave His Son to die on the cross that we might be saved. The Bible says. (Rom. 6:23b).

B. Yes, eternal life is a gift God gives to believers. (Jn. 6:47; Matt. 25:46; Tit. 1:2; 1 Jn. 5:13).

II. **Holy Spirit**- God has given believers the Holy Spirit (Jn. 7:37-39).

37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'" 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

A. The apostle Peter promised the Holy Spirit to believers. (Acts 2:38).

1. Peter later said. (Acts 5:32).

2. John wrote. (1 Jn. 4:13).

B. The Holy Spirit dwells in us.

1. As an **incentive to holiness**. (1 Cor. 6:19, 20).

3. To **produce godly fruit**. (Gal. 5:22, 23).

2. As a **sign of our sonship**. (Gal. 4:6; Eph. 1:13, 14).

4. As a **pledge of our resurrection**. (Rom. 8:11).

III. **Assurance** - God has given believers assurance.

A. We have assurance that **our sins are washed away**. (Mk. 16:16; Acts 22:16; Eph. 1:7).

B. We have assurance that God will protect us as long as we are faithful. (1 Cor. 10:13; Jn. 10:27-29).

27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. 29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand

C. We have assurance that God loves us and will bless us. (Rom. 8:28-39).

28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; 30 and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. 31 ¶ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? 33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written, "For Thy sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

IV. **Understanding** - God has given believers understanding. (1 Jn. 5:20).

A. As believers we have been given understanding that Jesus, the Son of God, has come into the world.

1. We know Jesus was not an imposter, but He was truly the Son of God.

2. He proved this by His many miracles and by the fact that God raised Him from the dead. (Rom. 1:4).

B. We know He was true and all who believe in Him overcome the world. (1 Jn. 5:4b,5).

V. **All Saving Truth-** God has given us all saving truth.

A. God has not left us to stumble in the darkness.

1. He has not left us to stumble in the world without light.
2. He has not merely given us some light.

B. He has given us “all things that pertain to life and godliness.” (2 Pet. 1:3).

1. He has given us everything we need to live acceptably and all things we need to get to heaven. (Jn. 16:13; Acts 20:27).
2. Paul made this bold affirmation in 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

VI. **Eternal Comfort-** God has given believers eternal comfort. (2 Thess. 2:16, 17).

16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, 17 comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

A. The comfort of the Christian is not temporary.

1. It is not a comfort based on wishful thinking.
2. It is not something that is here today and gone tomorrow.

B. He has given us “eternal comfort”

1. It is a comfort that never ends. It begins the moment we accept Jesus and will continue until the end of time.
2. This comfort will become a reality whenever Christ comes again. (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope.14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep.16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

VII. **The Ministry Of Reconciliation** - God has given believers the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Cor. 5:18).

A. The Bible teaches that **sin separates men from God.**

1. It keeps men from having sweet fellowship with God.
2. It keep men separated from God and His immense blessings.

B. Only those who are reconciled to God can be saved.

1. This reconciliation is not made possible by our own righteousness.
2. It is not made possible by our own riches or power or nationality or race.
3. It is only possible by the atoning sacrifice of Christ.

C. Most of the world is ignorant of these facts.

1. Most of the world does not think it needs to be saved.
2. Many in the world believe salvation is achieved by doing our own will.

D. It is essential that we preach the gospel to every person and every nation.

1. This is the only way the world will be saved.
2. This is the only way we fulfill the ministry of reconciliation.

Conclusion.

I. Brethren, this is a partial list of some of the great blessings God has given believers.

- A. These blessings should convince us that God loves us.
- B. These blessings should convince us that we have been blessed above all.

II. As Christians we need to frequently sing the words of this great hymn, “O Thou Fount Of Every Blessing.”

<p>O Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace; Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.</p> <p>Teach me ever to adore Thee, May I still my goodness prove; While the hope of endless glory, Fills my heart with joy and love.</p> <p>Here I raise my Ebenezer; Hither by Thy help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.</p>	<p>Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandering from the fold of God; He to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.</p> <p>O to grace how great a debtor, Daily I'm constrained to be! Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, Bind my wandering heart to Thee.</p> <p>Never let me wander from Thee, Never leave the God I love; Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.</p>
---	---

III. Without doubt, we, as Christians, have been abundantly blessed by the gracious God of heaven. Let us thank God every day for His immense blessings.

IV. The blessings we have discussed in this lesson are exclusively for Christians. Those who are not Christians can enjoy all these blessings Christian have by submitting to Christ in faith and baptism and obedience. Come to Christ as we stand and sing.

"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,
© Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)