



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Messenger

“PROCLAIM CHRIST, MAKE DISCIPLES, SERVE THE LORD”

625 W. Gibson Road, Woodland, CA * Phone 662-1935 * April 2018

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear St. Paul's,

Some verses in the Bible I continue to seek out the meaning and significance of what it is saying to us as Christian people. One of those verses is James 1:7.

Two translations of this verse are written here:

NIV – Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Holman Christian Standard Bible – Every generous act and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights; with Him there is no variation or shadow cast by turning.

Why are they so different? It is difficult not only to translate from Greek but also what is meant by the words written. God's giving shows his continual and relentless grace given to us, and the gift itself is a perfect gift that we need. God gives and also helps us in the receiving of the gift by creating in us faith by the Holy Spirit. We (I) struggle receiving all the blessings God brings to us. GOD character and nature is giving and GOOD. If things are not good it is not God who gave in a wrong way. The struggle is that we received or perceived it in a wrong way.

What is the reason for trying to say all this? God is consistently gracious and good. The origin of evil and temptation is in our own hearts. Sin has brought bad into the world. God can and does use trials and struggles to teach, guide, and direct us.

Eph 2:7-8 Tells us: in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

We (I) struggle navel gazing (starring at our belly buttons) and wondering *why me* and *why this or that*. What God wants is for us to look to him and trust (faith) that he has all things under his control at all times.

Blessing and Peace,
Pastor David Hardin