

# The Gift

James 1:16-25

<sup>16</sup> Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. <sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup> Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

<sup>19</sup> Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

<sup>21</sup> Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. <sup>25</sup> But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

**The duplicity of deception ...**

**The gracious generosity of our Father ...**

**The promise of the possibility of real change ...**

**Thru ... A Divine Word that saves and shapes us ...**

\_\_\_\_\_ it.

\_\_\_\_\_ it.

\_\_\_\_\_ by it.

\_\_\_ it.

*(Or else remain on the crazy train of deception!)*

**4 Personal Challenges for the New Year:**

1) \_\_\_\_\_ yourself to read the Word until you \_\_\_\_\_ to read the Word.

(And yes, you do have the time!)

2) Don't be an \_\_\_\_\_ unto yourself.

(We all need confidantes, coaches, and confessors. Who do you have?)

3) \_\_\_ something.

(There's a limit to knowledge and enthusiasm without action. Find your God-given "lane" and run in it.)

4) Take \_\_\_\_\_ of yourself and \_\_\_\_\_ to make the changes that are needed.

(You can be better. You *should* be better. Change is not only possible. It is \_\_\_\_\_.)

5) Make a \_\_\_\_\_ and begin it \_\_\_\_\_.

(A year from now, you'll wish you had started today! A goal without a plan is just a \_\_\_\_\_.)