

# DEVOTIONAL 2

## James 1:17 ~ Perfect Gifts

*by David Collins*

*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. – JAMES 1:17*

The painted landscape of autumn highlighted by the sun at your back. Reds and yellows; faded greens with shades of orange. Perched on a hillside, you look down across a valley. The silver blue of a river contrasts with the richness of the sky. Puffs of cotton drift aimlessly along. You could stay here for a very long time. The glass surface of the lake yields to the ski. You glide across the water. Mist rises. A loon calls. No one in their right mind is up this early. Few know the grandeur of the morning. The thrill, the need to grasp what will soon be gone.

The crunch of the snow. Ice castles sparking, dancing in reflected light. Stopping, the warmth of your breath dissipates into the crispness of this winter land. Bows bend beneath their burden. Tracks reveal the abundance of life. Silence. Silence. The wind touches the bones beneath your cheeks. Worries fade. This is another world.

The smell invades. Its rudeness violates. Death is here. Garbage litters. Gravity claws at soiled, stagnant refuse. Drawing it down, down through guttered alleyways. Life struggles to survive. All is black and white with shades of charcoal brown. In the midst of all of this—a planted daisy. White with life, reflecting a soul who knows a secret. Hope lies in the heart, not the circumstance. Steam fills the room. It's moisture filters up my nose and into my lungs. Sweat and grime replaced by water from a shower head. Tip your head back. Open your mouth. Drink. Without thought. No parasite. No risk to health. Water. Clean. Pure. Abundance unappreciated. At times wasted. A sign of blessing. Underserved yet ever present. Drink. Remember. Enjoy. Be thankful.

Every  
Every good  
Every good and perfect  
Every good and perfect gift  
Every good and perfect gift comes from your Father in heaven.  
Every good and perfect gift comes from your Father in heaven...  
and He loves you.