



So, my very dear friends, don't get thrown off course. Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light . . . Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. *Act* on what you hear! Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like. Anyone who sets himself up as "religious" by talking a good game is self-deceived. This kind of religion is hot air and only hot air. Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world.

James 1:17, 22-26

"Heart Matters"

October 7, 2018

Research shows that grateful people are _____ and live _____.
 How often do you feel a strong sense of gratitude or thankfulness? _____
 The problem of "social desirability _____." We answer questions in _____ ways that make us look _____ or matches who we aspire to be.
 There is a _____ between what we believe and what we practice.

Two Kinds of Gratitude

The first involves "_____" thanks to family, friends, and neighbors.
 How are you at writing _____?

The second involves how "_____" live together in and with gratitude.
 How does one care for orphans and widows and stay unstained by the world? James 1:26-27

The short answer is not _____!

 *In normal life one is not at all aware that we always receive infinitely more than we give, and that gratitude is what enriches life. One easily overestimates the importance of one's own acts and deeds, compared with what we become only through other people. – Pastor Bonhoeffer*

A Matter of the Heart

When you thank God, is it for _____ or _____?
 "If God... then I will..." Genesis 28:20-22

Gratitude is not a transaction of _____ and _____.

"God loves a _____ giver." 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

God "*provides you with every _____ in abundance, 9:8*

Why? "*so that by always having enough of everything, you may _____*"

God only gives us perfect gifts that will _____ others and us. James 4:3

 *Grace and gratitude belong together like heaven and earth...
 Gratitude follows grace like thunder (follows) lightning. – Karl Barth*

God's Heart: "*God so loved the world that he _____*" John 3:16
 Jesus gifts are not obligations to be repaid; but gifts to be _____!
 When Jesus fed 5,000 men, he did not _____ them. Mark 6:40-46

Action Steps:

How do _____ live as thankful people in a society of _____?

Write a note to God thanking the Lord for "*the deep ability to embrace the gift of _____.*" Psalm 139:13-14