

GIFTS FROM GOD

We all love to receive gifts, don't we?

It really doesn't matter how big or small the gift is...we like getting gifts.

What if I told you that I brought a gift for everyone here today

- For the ladies—I brought a flower in a beautiful vase
- For the men—I brought a new pocketknife

Wouldn't that be wonderful!!

I have gifts that have been given to me that are very special. Gifts that I will cherish my whole life.

- My desk drawer is full of notes and drawings that my kids have given me.
- My bookshelves are filled with books and Bibles that were given to me.
- I can look around my house/office and see that most of the things I have were given to me at some point.

There is something special about knowing that someone thought about us, chose something for us, and wanted to give it to us.

A gift is an expression of love, kindness, and generosity

When we hear the word **gift**, we naturally think about giving and receiving.

- Christmas
- Birthdays
- Anniversaries
- Special occasions

But today, I want to focus our attention on **THE GOD WHO GIVES**.

I want to look at the gifts He gives to His children.

I. **THE GOD WHO GIVES, GIVES GOOD AND PERFECT GIFTS**

The God that we serve is a generous, loving, and giving Father.

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Everything that is good in my life has been provided by my Father in heaven!!

All my life you have been faithful

All my life you have been so, so good

- He has given me life—Gen. 1:26; Ps. 139
- He has given me material blessings (food, water, air, shelter)—Matt. 6:33
- He has given me His church—Matt. 16:18
- He has given me all spiritual blessings in Christ—Eph. 1:3

So many times, even as Christians, we think that WE have provided for ourselves a GOOD LIFE!

- We get so prideful and so arrogant
- We look around at all we've accomplished, all we've done, all we have

May we never forget that all we have comes from God...without Him we are nothing!!

Moses told the Israelites not to forget what God has done for them:

- Remember who led you out of bondage.
- Remember who multiplied your flocks/herds...silver/gold
- Remember who gave you protection, water to drink, food to eat

Deut. 8:17,18

then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.'

¹⁸“And you shall remember the Lord your God, for *it is* He who gives you power to get wealth,

But Paul wrote this to Timothy...

I Timothy 6:17

Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

God has richly blessed us!!

- Even when we are disobedient
- Even when we disappoint Him
- Even when we doubt Him

He continues to give...over and over and over!!

God gives us everything that we need for this life...but if you want more...all we have to do is ask!

Matt.7:11

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

- God's love, mercy, grace, blessings... never run out

The God who gives, gives to His children good and perfect gifts.

II. THE GOD WHO GIVES, GAVE AN INDESCRIBABLE GIFT

The greatest gift that God gave to the world was not
Wealth, material blessings, it wasn't the pleasures that we find in the world

The greatest gift that God ever gave...was a gift that came from heaven...it was
the gift of His only begotten Son!

2 Cor. 9:15

Thanks *be* to God for His indescribable gift!

Other translations:

Unspeakable, Inexpressible, too wonderful for words,

The gift that God gave us by sending His son into the world to redeem us and save us...this GIFT is so great/wonderful...words cannot express the magnitude of this event.

- The creator came into His creation
- The King became a servant
- The life-giver gave His life
- The one that is high and lifted up in heaven was lifted up on a cross

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth,

This little baby boy that was born to the virgin Mary...was God in the flesh...and this little baby was wrapped in swaddling clothes...and He wasn't placed in a wooden manger and then, 33 years later was placed on a wooden cross... be crucified for the sins of the world.

We talk about the free gift of salvation...and yes, it is free to us...but this was a very costly gift.

The gift is free to us because someone else paid the price.

I Cor. 6:20

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

It cost Jesus His place in heaven.

He left the glory of heaven and came to earth.

Philippians 2:6-7

who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

It cost Jesus persecution and rejection.

He was despised, rejected, mocked, beaten, and falsely accused.

John 1:11

He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

It cost Jesus His peace.

In Gethsemane, He experienced deep suffering/pain/anxiety as He faced the cross.

Luke 22:44

And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly.

It cost Jesus His precious blood.

I Pet. 1:18,19

"Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things...but with the precious blood of Christ."

It cost Jesus the piercing of His body.

His hands and feet were pierced, His side was pierced, and He endured the physical suffering of the cross.

Psalm 22:16

For dogs have surrounded Me;

The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me.

They pierced My hands and My feet;

Salvation is a free gift, but it costs Jesus everything!!

We do not have adequate words to describe what Jesus did for us!

We cannot explain the depth of love, grace and mercy that He was shown to us!

The God who gives, gave an indescribable gift when He sent His son into the world.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

This was a very costly gift...but...

III. THE GOD WHO GIVES, OFFERS SALVATION AS A FREE GIFT

Rom.6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This gift that cost Jesus His life...is a gift that offers many things:

Have you ever seen those commercials where they are selling a cooking pan. They talk about how it will clean itself, non-stick, dishwasher safe.

You are almost sold on the pan...and they say, at the low price of \$99!

Too much...then they say, but wait, there's more.

They throw in a 2nd pan, then pots, then wooden spoons, then, if you call in the next 10 minutes...they will double the entire order for free!

When we read Rom. 6:23...that God's free gift is eternal life...what does that mean? What does that involve?

On almost every page of the NT we could write the words.... “but wait, there’s more”!!

Included in this FREE GIFT are many things...

1. Forgiveness of sins

Eph. 1:7

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

We can be redeemed from our sins...we can be forgiven for everything that we have done that was wrong and everything that we are going to do!!

And it’s FREE to us!! The price has already been paid!!

2. All spiritual blessings

Eph. 1:3

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

All spiritual blessings are only given to those that are IN CHRIST!! If you are outside of Christ, you enjoy physical blessings given by God.

But you can only enjoy “spiritual blessings”when you are IN CHRIST JESUS....and again....it’s FREE...the price has already been paid!!

3. Access to the Father in prayer

Eph. 2:18

For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Because Jesus died for us (unspeakable gift)...He has given us access to the Father!

It’s hard for us to understand just how special this gift is.

In the OT, only the high priest had access to the Father and this was only 1 time a year!

But now, because of this FREE GIFT of Jesus Christ...we can approach our Father in heaven at any time!!

Heb. 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Because of the blood of Jesus, you and I and anyone that wants to can have access to God the Father...we can draw near to God...we have been given access to HIM.

It's included in the FREE GIFT package...because once again, the price has already been paid!!

4. Peace and hope

Rom. 5:1-3

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

- In Christ, we have a peace that passes all understanding—Phil. 4:7
- In Christ, we have the hope of eternal life—Titus 1:2

And once again, these are FREE to us...because the price has already been paid!

5. Home in heaven

2 Cor. 5:1,2

For we know that if our earthly house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,

And this gift of heaven is offered to me FREELY...because the price has already been paid!!

So, we have the FREE GIFT OF GOD...the UNSPEAKABLE GIFT of the Savior.

But we need to understand that this gift cannot be bought:

I don't want to deceive myself into thinking that I can do anything to earn my salvation.

Eph. 2:8,9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

I can never do enough to remove one sin from my life...but thanks be to God for his good, unspeakable, free gift of Jesus Christ....He is the one that has paid the price for our sins.

These gifts cannot be bought...but they do have to be accepted.

This brings us to the last point...

IV. THE GOD WHO GIVES, WANTS US TO RECEIVE HIS GIFT

In John 4, Jesus talks with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well.

She is trying to understand why He is talking to her and what He is offering her.

He says in...

John 4:10

"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

She didn't understand the magnitude of the gift that Jesus was offering her.

Unfortunately, many people in our world today still don't understand the GIFT OF GOD.

They don't realize the good, unspeakable, free gift of eternal life that God is offering them.

And because they don't understand it...and they don't care about it...they will never accept it!

This gift will go un-opened by the majority of the world.

- The gift is available.
- The price has been paid.
- The offer has been made.

But it must be received.

And how do we receive God's gift?

Heb. 5:9

And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

In order to accept the FREE GIFT OF SALVATION...we must be obedient to His word and His will.

Will you accept this....

- GOOD
- UNSPEAKABLE
- INDESCRIBABLE
- FREE GIFT of salvation?