

# 12 Days of God's Wonderful Gifts

## Introduction

Just like we take a few days to explore the gifts we receive at Christmas, I want to help you spend the next twelve days contemplating and appreciating the wonder of God's gifts.

God's gifts are so amazing God sent the Holy Spirit to nurture our understanding of all God has given.

*But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God... Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 1 Cor 2:9-12*

Scripture is clear about the generous nature of our Heavenly Father. Review the passages that declare it to be true.

## Our Generous Father

*Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened. Or what man is there among you, when his son shall ask him for a loaf, will he give him a stone? Or if he shall ask for a fish, will he give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him! **Matthew 7:7-11***

*God is not served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself **gives** to all life and breath and all things **Acts 17:25***

*I charge you in the presence of God, who **gives** life to all things! **Tim. 6:13***

*Every good thing bestowed and every perfect **gift** is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow. **James 1:17***

All the Father's gifts are good and perfect. That means that they are out of His love for us. So, we can thank Him in everything knowing that He uses everything in life for His glory and our good. His gifts are appropriate and useful to meet a specific need.

Begin this journey with prayer.

*Father,*

*Thank you for your wonderful gifts. Thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit who you gave to help us understand, appreciate and best utilize every gift. Over the next few days, I purpose to*

*look more closely and better respond to those gifts. Open my heart and mind. Help me set aside the time to contemplate You and Your gifts.*

## **DAY ONE --- GOD GAVE HIS ONLY SON**

Read the associated verses.

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. **John 3:16***

*He who did not spare His Own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely **give** us all things? **Romans 8:32***

All the other gifts hinge on the Father giving of His only begotten Son on our behalf.

Take a moment to think about the difficulty in sacrificing one of your own children or grandchild to save someone else. Think of all God allowed to happen to Jesus on our behalf. If he was willing to do that for us, what keeps Him from providing for all our needs. Contemplate the willingness of God to be involved in your life. He loves you and cares for you.

Finish with a prayer of thanks and express whatever else is in your heart as a result of thinking about Him.

## **DAY TWO --- JESUS GAVE HIS LIFE**

Take today to think about willingness of Jesus to sacrifice His life for us.

Read the passages carefully and thoughtfully.

*It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. **Matthew 20:26-28***

*there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who **gave** Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony borne at the proper time. **1 Tim. 2:5-6***

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus; who **gave** Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. **Titus 2:11-14***

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who **gave** Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us out of this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father... **Galatians 1:3***

There is no greater demonstration of love than the giving of one's self on behalf of another. Only because of Jesus is God free to gift us.

## **Response**

John 1:12 is very clear about the response required.

*He came to His own and His own did not receive Him, but to as many as received Him to them He gave the right to be come the children of God.*

The Gift of Jesus must be received. Those who don't receive Him are not granted the right to become children of God. It is more than believing. This is an active word which means to grab, embrace, value as vital.

Have you surrendered your life to Him? Reaffirm your commitment to Him today.

Peter urges us to respond to this sacrifice by a life change.

*As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, **knowing** that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. 1 Peter 1:14-21*

Knowing what Jesus did for us becomes a motivation to live differently. Take some time to contemplate the great gift Jesus gave in offering Himself and how differently I might live in light of it.

## **DAY THREE --- JESUS GIVES THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Again take the time to carefully read and meditate on what these passages teach concerning the gift of the Holy Spirit.

*Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?" **Luke 11:11-13***

*For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure. **John 3:34***

*He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.' " But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. **John 7:38-39***

*"And I will ask the Father, and He will **give** you another Encourager (just like ME), that He may be with you forever **John 14:16***

The word another indicates another OF THE SAME KIND.

Jesus promised to send someone to His followers who would do the same things He had been doing for them.

*and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was **given** to us. **Romans 5:5***

*...you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is **given** as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory. **Ephes. 1:13-14***

*By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has **given** us of His Spirit. **1 John 4:13***

In the Holy Spirit, we have a perfect perpetual Pastor who not only directs us but empowers us. Take some time to contemplate just what ministry Jesus had with His disciples. The Holy Spirit comes to do the same things. What a wonderful gift.

## **Response**

Receive, submit, listen, obey.

Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the desires of the flesh. Are you daily depending on His direction and empowerment for living?

## **DAY FOUR --- GOD GIVES SALVATION BY GRACE**

Salvation deals with a rescue from a life threatening or devastating situation. We were spiritually dead, we were sold into bondage to Satan. Through Jesus God saved us, redeemed us, bought us, rescued us from that terrible circumstance.

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free **gift** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 6:23***

*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the **gift** of God not of works lest any man should boast. **Eph 2:8***

*Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift (of grace)! **2 Corinthians 9:15***

Many think that this passage has to do with Christ as the gift. A careful examination of the context of this passage reveals the fact that this inexpressible gift deals with the pouring out of God's grace on undeserving sinners. It is such a powerful thing that it defies words to express the wonder of it.

The following is a list of things that take place the moment of conversion. Take time to think through them and even look up the associated passages if you have time. Rejoice in your salvation.

**1. Regenerated (made alive, born again, renewed) John 3; Eph 2 Col 2:13; Col 3:10**

**2. Raised up with Christ in the heavenlies Eph 2**

**3. Seated with Christ in the heavenlies Eph 2**

**4. Adopted into God's family Gal 4:5-7; Rom 8**

**5. Forgiven all our sins Eph 1**

**6. Circumcised through His sacrifice Col 2:11**

**7. Reconciled through His sacrifice Rom 5; Col 2**

8. *Redeemed by His sacrifice Rom 3*
9. *Sanctified (set apart as holy) Heb 10:10*
10. *Placed in the body of Christ 1 Cor 12:13*
11. *Permanently indwelt by the Spirit 1 Cor 3:16*
12. *Justified, made righteous Rom 3; 2 Cor 5:20*
13. *Sins Propitiated by Christ's blood Rom 3*
14. *Sealed until the day of redemption Eph 1*
15. *Made a new creation 2 Cor 5.17*
16. *Gifted for effective ministry 1 Cor 12*
17. *Lavished with Grace Eph 2:7,8; Rom 5:1-2*
18. *Blessed with every spiritual blessing Eph 1:3*
19. *Presented holy and blameless before God Eph 2; Col 1:22*
20. *Enlightened to spiritual mysteries Eph 2:8-10*
21. *Given an inheritance Eph 2:11; 1 Peter 1*
22. *Empowered by the Holy Spirit Eph 3*
23. *Saved by belief in Jesus Eph 2:9-10*
24. *Created masterpiece in Christ Jesus Eph 2:10*
25. *Brought near to God Eph 2:13*
26. *Made citizens of God's household Eph 2:19; Phil 3:20-21*
27. *Incorporated into God's temple Eph 2:21-22*
28. *Temple of the Holy Spirit 1 Cor 6:19*
29. *Transferred from kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of His Son Col 1:13*
30. *Partakers of the divine nature 2 Pet 1*
31. *Given His divine seed 1 John 3:9*
32. *Predestined to be like Jesus Rom 8*
33. *Rooted and grounded in love Eph 3:18*
34. *Put on the new self Eph 4:22; Col 3:9*
35. *Become children of God John 1:12*
36. *Become children of light Eph 5:8*
37. *Enlisted and empowered in God's army Eph 6*
38. *Made complete in Christ Col 2:10*
39. *Debts forever cancelled Col 2:13-14*
40. *Life hidden with Christ in God Col 3:3*
41. *Granted peace with God thru Christ Rom 5:1*
42. *Flesh rendered powerless Rom 6:6*
43. *Freed from slavery to sin Rom 6:6*
44. *Dead to sin's influence Rom 6:11*
45. *Given eternal life Ro 6:23*
46. *Freed from the law of sin and death Rom 8:2*
47. *Freed from condemnation Rom 8:1*
48. *Glorified Rom 8:30*
49. *Given the mind of Christ 1 Cor 2:16*
50. *Belong to Christ 1 Cor 3:23*
51. *Filled with the joy of Christ John 15:11; 17:13*
52. *Crucified with Christ Gal 2:20*
53. *Washed by His Holy Spirit Titus 2:4*
54. *Renewed by His Holy Spirit Titus 2:5-6*

- 55. Delivered from fear of death Heb 2:14-15**
- 56. Access to the throne of Grace Heb 4:16**
- 57. Cleansed conscience Heb 9:13-14**
- 58. Called out of darkness into His marvelous light 1 Peter 2:9**
- 59. Love poured out in our hearts Rom 5**
- 60. Grafted into the Vine (Christ) John 15**
- 61. Become one with the Trinity John 17**

Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!!!!

## **Response**

God offers Salvation as a gift to all who would call upon His name. A gift, by definition, is free. If it is not free, it is not a gift. Call upon Him while He is near. Believe in your heart and confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord you shall be saved.

Here is what the Bible requires regarding salvation.

*But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Rom 10:8-13*

Call on Him today!

## **DAY FIVE --- GOD GIVES NEW LIFE & SONSHIP**

Family can be exhilarating or excruciating depending on what is happening in the family. God originally intended family to be a place of rest, security, fellowship, comradery, expressed love. That is His purpose for the church family. He created us to live best in meaningful connection with others. God invites us into his family with new life and connection. Read carefully the following passages. Contemplate the new life Jesus offers to all who call upon Him. The ETERNAL LIFE God promises goes far beyond what we experience of life extended into eternity. The Life He offers is a quality life; it is the very life of Jesus offered to us. It is not something that we receive someday. We receive Christ's eternal life when we believe.

*For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. **John 5:21***

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. **John 10:10***

*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. **John 10:27-29***

*And the witness is this, that God has **given** us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life. **1 John 5:11-13***

*But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. **John 1:12-13***

*See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. **1 John 3:1***

We all were dead in our trespasses and sins. Out of His great love and based on the extreme sacrifice of His son, the Father offers us real life and heritage as sons of God.

## **Response**

John included a response to the wonderful privilege of being children of God.

*Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. **1 John 3:2-3***

Does your way of life reflect your relationship to God?

*Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. **1 Tim 6:12***

## **DAY SIX --- GOD GIVES VICTORY IN CHRIST**

Life includes struggle. God uses all the dark things in life to highlight the sparkling diamond of life in Jesus more starkly. He does not promise easy sailing. In fact, he predicted that we would have tribulation in this world. What He does promise is His continued presence through the struggle. Too many times we fail to access His resources as we try to do it all on our own.

Review and contemplate the following passages promising God's power.

*but thanks be to God, who **gives** us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Cor. 15:57***

*that He would **grant** you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; **Ephes. 3:16***

*But He **gives** a greater grace. Therefore it says, **GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.**" **James 4:6***

*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. **Hebrews 4:16***

*seeing that His divine power has **granted** to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has **granted** to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. **2 Peter 1:3-4***

The Father grants freedom from bondage.

## **Response**

Thanksgiving. Humility

Follow up on the continuing context of 2 Peter 1:3-4 which includes our responsibility considering the resources He has made available.

What do you need to bring to the throne of grace this day? It is there that we receive mercy and find the necessary enabling grace to help in our time of need. Cry out to Him today.

## **DAY SEVEN --- GOD GIVES WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE**

All of us have questions. All of us wonder what to do. All of us which we had a direct line to God for answers to life's difficult questions. The Bible does not address every issue known to man but it does provide the wisdom and basic truths that enable us address whatever issue. Again slowly read and contemplate the verses regarding God's provision of light, enlightenment, truth.

*For God, who said, Light shall shine out of darkness, "is the One who has shone in our hearts to **give** the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. **2 Cor. 4:6***

*Consider what I say, for the Lord will **give** you understanding in everything **2 Tim. 2:7.***

*But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who **gives** to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be **given** to him. **James 1:5***

*And we know that the Son of God has come, and has **given** us understanding, in order that we might know Him who is true, and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. **1 John 5:20***

## **Response**

Ask for it.

Follow it.

Seek for it as gold and silver.

## **DAY EIGHT --- GOD GIVES GIFTS TO MINISTER TO OTHERS**

God's gifts are not just for us to hoard or serve ourselves. He specifically calls and gifts people to minister to each other. Read the following passages and then take some time to contemplate



how God might have gifted you.

*But to each one of us grace was **given** according to the measure of Christ's **gift**. Ephes. 4:7*

*Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each man has his own **gift** from God, one in this manner, and another in that. 1 Cor. 7:7*

*Now there are varieties of **gifts**, but the same Spirit. 1 Cor. 12:4*

*But to each one is **given** the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 1 Cor. 12:7*

Romans 12 addresses some various gifts. 1 Peter splits the gifts into two categories; speaking gifts and serving gifts. If you want to read the context of the gifts they are addressed in four passages. Romans 12, 1 Cor 12; Eph 4 and 1 Peter 4. Check it out. Jot down what facts you discover about the gifts and see if any resonate with you.

What is your gift?

The important thing is that you are connected to God and sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

You will function in the context of your gift whether you recognize it or not.

## **Response**

*And since we have **gifts** that differ according to the grace **given** to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith... Romans 12:6*

*As each one has received a special **gift**, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10*

The guiding factor in serving others is the primacy of love – Read 1 Cor 13.

## **DAY NINE --- GOD GIVES REST**

Everyone needs rest. We fight for recognition. We fight for security. We struggle for significance. We struggle to make life work for us. These are all found in Jesus who promises a rest from the chaos of our world. Stress and striving came as a result of the rebellion of Adam. Jesus came to bring about rest.

Absorb Jesus' promise.

*All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son, except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father, except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My load is light." Matthew 11:27-30*

Such rest comes in the context of submitting to Christ's direction and help.

God has provided for rest in the middle of tribulation and trouble if we will submit to His yoke.

If we will become his servant.

*So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Hebrews 4:9-10*

## **Response**

Come unto him. Learn. Take his yoke upon you.

## **DAY TEN --- GOD GIVES PEACE, COMFORT & HOPE**

Besides rest we long for peace and comfort. Peace is not the absence of conflict or struggle but the ability to keep our focus on Jesus through it and in the midst of it.

*Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and **given** us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word. 2 Thes 2:16*

*Peace I leave with you; My peace I **give** to you; not as the world **gives**, do I **give** to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. John 14:27*

*Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually **grant** you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all! 2 Thes 3:16*

## **Response**

*Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

What is troubling you today? Make it known to Jesus and look for His peace to guard your hearts and minds.

## **DAY ELEVEN --- GOD GIVES US IMMORTALITY**

Since the rebellion of Adam and the subsequent curse, mortality rules humanity. Perishability haunts every living thing. God promises to give life to these mortal bodies. We may not feel it now but restoration is coming.

*But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also **give** life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you. Romans 8:11*

*Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" 56The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 15:50-58*

*Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Philippians 3:20-21*

Use a bit of imagination, and contemplate what that might look like. Put in your “order” for what kind of body you would like. Envision what a perfectly functioning body might be like.

## **Response**

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord*

## **DAY TWELVE --- GOD GIVES US AN ETERNAL INHERITANCE**

Part of belonging to a family deals with a heritage associated with the family. Look who our father is! The God of the universe and we are heirs to His kingdom.

*The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. Romans 8:16-17*

Paul so delighted in that heritage that he had this to say...

*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Romans 8:18*

*And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. Acts 20:32*

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:3-5*

Take some time to contemplate that inheritance which Peter declared was imperishable, undefiled, will not fade away, reserved in heaven. Not only is our inheritance protected but WE are protected until we receive it.

Take some time contemplate what that inheritance might look like. What is important? What is valuable that God has in store?

May you use the Christmas blessing I shared Sunday to bless your family and friends.

## **Christmas Blessing**

May His impeccable character shine through you more this year than last.

May His incomprehensible love and peace permeate the deepest needs of your soul.

May His impervious protection surround you and yours.

May His intimate presence continually capture your attention.

May His infallible wisdom guide your every decision.

May His inexhaustible provision expand and overflow your borders.

May His inspiring affirmation, encouragement and acknowledgment inspire you to greater and greater accomplishments for the kingdom.

May His impartial training and discipline equip you for the tasks ahead of you.

May His insistent faithfulness comfort you in your struggle.

May His promised reward & inheritance fill you with hope and courage to endure and remain faithful to the end.