



# THE GIFTS FROM GOD

By Anthony Scherffius

In our previous discussion about “What Gifts To Give God,” we noticed the importance of giving and offering things to God that are on His list. Although they technically are already His, He has given them to us so that we can double them, use them for His glory, and make them a gift worthy of His approval through our obedience to Him and love for His Son. We concluded the discussion with a reference from our brother Paul in his letter to the Corinthians, specially in 2 Corinthians 8-9. Paul encourages the brethren at Corinth to give with a cheerful heart and try their best to out-give God. He essentially says you never can out-give God so try as if that is your goal; give all you have all the time.

Despite this, there is a question that arises when discussing the topic of gift-giving. Why should I give that much to God? Why should I give a gift to God at all? In order to answer those questions, we must consider two things: the gifts and the Giver. The reason we should give our all and our best is because of the Great Giver Himself and the gifts He has first given us. Let us first consider the gifts. There are many gifts God has given us. In fact, there are too many to count. We will just consider a few of those gifts should move us to give all that we have for God and serve Him. But before we look at the gifts in great detail, we have to look at the nature of these gifts.

**Nature Of The Gifts**—In the book of James, we read of what kind of gifts come from God. James says “Every good thing given 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). James captures a beautiful picture of not just the gifts God gives, but also what kind of giver God is. His Gifts Are Good: The word “good” here in the Greek carries with it the idea of

something that is “useful, profitable, and beneficial”; 2.) His Gifts Are Perfect: James describes the gifts of God as perfect, meaning “complete, lacking nothing, ‘no assembly required.’” Anything and everything God gives is beneficial for us and needs no improvement or editing. When God gives us a gift, we have no need to hope it comes with a receipt for return or exchange.

**What Are These Gifts?**—Now that we have looked at the nature of these gifts (useful and lacking nothing), what exactly are these gifts that are so perfect and useful for us?

1.) **His Only Begotten Son:** This is truly the perfect gift. This is a gift we did not deserve and at times we take for granted. Jesus is not just the perfect gift, He was the perfect Sacrifice. It is through His offering of Himself to the Father that we might have the free gift of grace and mercy (Ephesians 2);

2.) **The Inspired Scriptures:** The Word of God is a wonderful and magnificent gift and is in fact useful! Paul would describe its usefulness in 2 Timothy 3:16, 17—“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching (**what is right**), for reproof (**what is not right**), for correction (**how to get right**), for training (**how to stay right**) in righteousness (**by the standard of what is morally right**); so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work (**lacking nothing and fully furnished—not needing any editing or any receipt**)”.

3.) **A Crown Of Life:** This gift has not yet been given. However, it is promised to those who are faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10). If we want this good and perfect gift, we must intimately know the Good Gift Giver—God Himself.

**The One Who Is Giving—So who is this Gift Giver?** Who is the one that deserves our gifts and the one who has bestowed upon us all of these good and perfect gifts?

1.) **The Heavenly One:** The psalmist recorded for us a song that describe God

perfectly: “Let them praise Your great and awesome name; Holy is He” (Psalm 99:3). The prophet Isaiah even said the angels sang of His holiness: “And they were calling out to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Hosts; all the earth is full of His glory” (Isaiah 6:3). God is Holy, literally set apart and sanctified. He is different from anything and everything and must be approached as such. Likewise, the gifts given to Him must also be holy.

2.) **The Father Of Lights:** Jesus, in His sermon on the mount during His instructions on how to pray, said: “Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name” (Mathew 6:8-13). Not only does Jesus refer to God’s holiness, He also touches on another aspect and description of God—He is our Father from heaven. A father knows exactly what his children need and want. Jesus would say, “Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? 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 what is good to those who ask Him!” (Matthew 7:9-11).

So, why should we give our everything and best to God? Because He first gave His best for us. Why should we love God enough to give a great gift? Because He first loved us enough to give a great and perfect gift. It was such a perfect and useful gift that we need not tweak or edit it in any way. Let us not only give gifts to God who is worthy of praise. Let us praise God for the gifts He has given us.



## Remember in Prayer

**Brandon Duncan** had back surgery on 12/15. He is in pain, but the surgery went well.

### Remember also:

- Melva McManus,
- Archie & Nancy Underwood,
- Joy Tull, Margrie Holloway,
- Debbie Perkins, Judy Mitchell,
- Pat & Kelly Beck,
- Jeff Elam, Kevin Burnett,
- Diane Ewing, Carey Samford,
- Samuel & Diana Ramirez,
- Steven Coats, Steve McClellan

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Scott Samford requested prayers for a lady in our community. Please remember **Melinda Riley** and her family in your prayers – specifically her son and husband.

### IMPORTANT DATES

- December 21-** Elder/Deacon Mtg./4:00
- December 24-** Singing/Devotional
- December 31-** Singing Night/End of Quarter
- January 11-** NH Worship Svc./2:00
- January 25-** Pot Luck Luncheon

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**Pick up your January calendars in the information room.**

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