

The Best Gifts



By

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The Best Gifts

But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way. 1 Corinthians 12:31

First to all of you who may visit this site today I want to wish each and every one of you and your families and very Merry Christmas. I am sure that as we prepare to celebrate this joyous holiday season there will be much excitement and anticipation, which of course is what this season of the year brings. I know that our children and grandchildren, our spouses and significant others, are breathlessly waiting to see what gifts are under the tree. There will be those who are looking for dolls and action figures, some will want electronic gifts and games and still others who are looking for apparel and jewelry, etc. Yes, the list will be broad and will cover a wide spectrum. Well, to that list I would like for you to consider **The Best Gifts**.

In this 12th chapter of Paul's 1st letter to the Corinthians Paul addresses a concern that was causing some problems in the growing and developing church; that being the significance of spiritual gifts and which ones were of greater importance. There were those

who may have believed that if you could not speak in tongues you weren't complete. Others felt the same way about spiritual discernment, and faith. There were still others who thought that healing and miracles were the best gifts. What Paul wanted them to understand was that there were diversities of gifts and that no one gift was more important in God's sight than another because they all came from Him and it takes all of the gifts working in harmony with each other to manifest and fulfill God's will.

I know what you're thinking, this is all well and good, but what does it have to do with Christmas? Well, just like the church had misunderstood the role of gifts in God's divine plan, so do we as individuals and collective groups misunderstand God's purpose in the giving of gifts and just what gifts are the really important ones that should be on our list and under the tree of our hearts. So, to that end, I offer the following, **The Best Gifts**;

I. **The Gift of Fellowship**

We have sweet fellowship with family and friends and that fellowship is made even sweeter when we are first and foremost in fellowship with our heavenly Father and His

Son Jesus. “Truly our fellowship is with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ”. 1st John 1:3

II. **The Gift of Knowledge**

Of all of the New Testament writers there were none more erudite than the apostle Paul and yet for all of his vast knowledge he speaks in Philippians 3:8 & 10, of the priority, value, and urgency of knowing Christ; “Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.... That I may know him, and the Power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his suffering, being made conformable unto his death”.

III. **The Gift of Faith**

As Christians our objective in all that we do is to please our heavenly Father. The Word teaches us in Hebrews 11:6 “without faith it is impossible to please Him”. For it is faith that give substance to the things we hope for and provides the evidence for the things we

cannot see (paraphrase for Hebrew 11:1) It is faith that gives us peace and provides reassurance when life presents us with questions that we have no answers for.

IV. **The Gift of Hope**

Hope is that essential element that give us tenacity when all around us tell us to quit. Hope is our oasis in the middle of the desert of despair. “If we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it”. Romans 8:25 Hope in the heart prepares one for the task of the present and future.

V. **The Gift of Love**

“And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. 1st Corinthians 13:13

Of all **The Best Gifts** the greatest of them all is love. It is by far the most powerful, the most enduring, immutable and everlasting. When all else falls love will survive. It believes, hopes, and endures all things. It was love, God’s love for mankind, that Christ was born! It was love, God’s love for

mankind that Christ died on the cross, and it was love, God's love for mankind the Christ rose from the grave and now sits at the right hand of God as our propitious Paraclete the one who continuously advocates for us in the midst of our human events.

As I close It is my prayer that you make sure that these **Best Gifts** will be found under your tree.