

Gift Giving

by Wayne Goff

“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!” Matthew 7:11.

Giving gifts is a *stressful* exercise. We have *limited* resources, so we spend only reasonable amounts. You hear quite a bit about those who overspend and rack up high debts on their credit cards. Some spend the entire year trying to pay off that debt! That is not wise, but the sentiment is certainly understood.

Then there are the **returns!** Every year people return gifts to the stores where they were purchased because they were the wrong size, an unneeded item, or not really applicable to the recipient. I saw a couple at one store on the local Fox newscast. They freely admitted to returning their gift to **BEST BUY** in order to get a *better* one! It’s hard to get the perfect gift for most people.

So now that the stress is over for this past holiday season, consider how perfectly God gives gifts to us. Jesus said that if we, **“being evil,”** know how to give good gifts to our children, then how much more does the heavenly Father give good things to those who ask Him?

“*Evil*” (poneros) means “*evil, in effect or influence.*” Perhaps the context would indicate “*sinful.*” Still, we desire to give “*good gifts*” (agatha domata) to our children. “*Good*” here means “*beneficial.*” Parents understand how to give beneficial things to their children. You don’t see them giving their children a snake, or a rock!

Our heavenly Father freely gives good things to those who ask Him because He has *inexhaustible* resources, *perfect understanding* of our needs, our being, and our circumstances, and the *loving generosity* to give them. **But He wants us to ask Him!** Faith, trust, and obedience come into the mix. How many times have we missed out on the opportunity to be blessed by our heavenly Father because we didn’t ask out of a lack of faith or trust?! Shame on us. Just remember: God will give us what we *need*, and He knows us best. **Just think how good a gift giver you could be if you were like Him?**

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