

Gifts

by Wayne Goff

It has been said that you can tell much about the **Giver** through the **gifts** which he gives. Undoubtedly there is much truth in this, and with that thought in mind, we can see God better through His *"gifts."*

- Jesus offered the gift of *"living water,"* John 4:10
- God gave the penitent baptized souls *"the gift of the Holy Spirit,"* Acts 2:38; 10:45; 11:17
- Jesus Himself is God's *"gift"* of salvation, Romans 5:15-18
- *"The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord,"* Romans 6:23
- *"Spiritual gifts"* were given to the early church to reveal and confirm God's New Testament, 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; Hebrews 2:4
- Salvation by grace through faith is *"the gift of God,"* Ephesians 2:8
- The *"gift"* of apostleship was given to certain of Christ's disciples, Ephesians 3:7
- Christ gave *"gifts"* to the church – apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, Ephesians 4:8
- *"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,"* James 1:17

The best gifts ever given to the world were given by a benevolent God who is interested in our long-term happiness, safety and security. Do we have enough faith to see this, to appreciate them, and to receive them?

Christians may *gift "gifts"* to God in return, according to the New Testament. The free-will contribution of the saints to those churches in Jerusalem and Judea was called a *"gift,"* 1 Corinthians 16:3; 2 Corinthians 8:4, 19-20; 9:5.

In the Old Testament, the *"gifts and sacrifices for sin"* were offered through the high priest, Hebrews 5:1; 8:3-4; 9:9.

Abel offered *"a more excellent sacrifice"* to God because it was done in obedient faith. Thus, God testified of his *"gifts"* and through them he still speaks to us, though he is dead, Hebrews 11:4.

What gifts will you be giving this week, and what do they say about you? More importantly, have you spent a portion of your life and money to give back *"gifts"* to God?

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