



The Gift of Love

December 3, 2007

The Ultimate Gift

"I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ..." Eph. 3:17-18

'Tis the season for... shopping. Thus begins a series of messages this Christmas season by Pastor Matt Heard called "CHRISTMAS SHOPPING", in which I am reminded that the real longing of my heart will not be satisfied in those gifts I get from the store. In fact, Pastor Matt notes many of us have even forgotten why we give gifts in the first place - to reflect upon and remember the Gift of all gifts which God gave to us in Jesus Christ. The result? "We miss Him while shopping for lesser things."

This Christmas season would be a perfect time to stop and reflect on the ultimate gift which God gave us in His Son, Jesus Christ, and to ask ourselves what we can do to share this "ultimate gift" with others, especially our grandchildren. What a grand opportunity to refocus the real intent and meaning of gift giving at this time of year.

This month our focus is on the Gift Of Love. It would be fruitless to talk about the many facets of love without first zeroing in on the facet that gives all the others their beauty and brilliance - the gift of God's love expressed by the birth of a babe in a manger. This was no ordinary birth, and this can be no ordinary gift we choose to share with our loved ones. Make this Christmas season one that radiates with the true meaning of the season. Whether decorating with meaning or planning our gift giving and celebrations with meaning, make it a Christmas that is filled with the gift of love - the love of the Father for His beloved.

ACTION STEP: Make a Treasure Chest of Love filled with special gifts, each expressing a specific way in which God's love is shown. For example, you might use the 12 Days of Christmas concept and create or buy small gifts to put in the Treasure Chest that represent the redemption story. These gifts could be used as ornaments that hang on the tree as an annual reminder to children and families. Give a gift each week or for twelve days leading up to Christmas. Create your own traditions that help our grandchildren grasp how deep Christ's love is for them, and that this is what Christmas is REALLY about.

FOR LONG DISTANCE GRANDPARENTS... you can do it too! Mail each gift

individually or all at once in a small treasure chest to be opened on the dates you instruct. You can include notes or cards to explain the meaning, or send an email each time you want them to open a gift.

GRANDPAUSE: "This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." The Apostle John (1 Jn. 4:9-10)

[WEEKLY PRAYER SUGGESTION FOR GRANDPARENTS:](#) **Impress Meaning**

Suggested Reading

[Grandpa's Box: Retelling the Biblical Story of Redemption](#)

By Starr Meade / P & R Publishing

[The Sacred Romance](#)

By Brent Curtis / Thomas Nelson

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