

## The Greatest Gifts

During the holiday season, there is a no more cherished tradition than that of gift giving. The origins of the tradition are sorted and varied at best. Many claim that the giving of gifts had its beginning in paganism, while religious folk assert that it comes from the biblical example of the wise men, the Magi, who brought gifts to the infant Jesus. (Matthew 2:11) The commercialization of the Christmas holiday has made it the most lucrative time of the year for many businesses. This has also made the process of choosing a gift for family or friends a stressful chore. We want to give the best gift possible, one that will bring happiness to the recipient.

So what does the New Testament have to say about gift-giving?

- The gift of God is living (spiritual) water. (John 4:10)
- We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit at baptism. (Acts 2:38)
- You can't buy the gift of God with money. (Acts 8:20)
- God's gift of grace through Christ brings justification. (Rom. 5:12-21)
- The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 6:23)
- The gift of God is indescribable. (2 Cor. 9:15)
- The gift of God cannot be earned by works. (Eph. 2:8)
- Every good and perfect gift is from God. (James 1:17)
- Use our God given gifts to minister to each other. (1 Pet. 4:10)

When it comes to our spiritual lives and service to God, there are a multitude of opportunities to give. We can give ourselves to the service and benevolent needs of others. Most importantly, we can share the gift of the Gospel message which brings with it the greatest gifts from God.

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