

God Gives Generously

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[Isaiah 42:5] Thus says God the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk on it:

[Romans 6:23] For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Most people enjoy receiving gifts. On our birthdays we anticipate receiving gifts from family and friends. Most Americans were happy to receive the COVID pandemic hardship compensation money from the federal government. However, many people are not aware that what they are enjoying every day are gifts of God and are not thankful for them – the air we breathe, the food we eat, the family we belong to, the celestial bodies that loom so high above us silently, and the health and life we enjoy. All these things we enjoy came from God and yet how thankful are we to our Creator who gives us such gifts so generously?

In addition to the natural gifts, God has given His Son, Jesus Christ, as the greatest gift to humanity. The privilege of entering eternal life with God through Jesus Christ is the greatest gift that God gives to us. But many people do not want this great gift. If the president of the nation offers to give you a high-value gift, would you ignore or refuse it? Why would you ignore this most valuable gift from our Creator? Through this message, let us see what gifts we have received from God and learn to be thankful for them.

As the prophet Isaiah declared, God created the heavens and all celestial bodies in them including the sun that shines a light on us during the day, the moon and the stars that shine on our night skies, and the earth for our dwelling. Scientists have shown that the natural condition of the earth is exactly suitable for human habitation so that even one or two percent deviation would be disastrous. Our Creator, in His infinite wisdom, made all things to enable all creatures to live, prosper, and fulfill their missions from God. Such are gifts of the Creator generously provided to all creation.

The prophet Daniel declared that God elects and removes rulers of the nations, and gives wisdom and knowledge to the wise, who understand God's divine truths. Due to the great advances in information technology, the level of knowledge available to humans has increased greatly. However, knowledge comes from the hand of God as a gift to humanity. We humans have come to discover in this age what God has designed through His creation long ago. The greatest knowledge is that we come to know God through Jesus Christ. True wisdom is to attain eternal life through our faith in Jesus Christ. And this eternal life is the most precious gift that God gives to all repenting sinners without cost.

[Daniel 2:21] And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise, and knowledge to those who have understanding.

Perhaps the greatest natural gift of God to humanity is the gift of agriculture. When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden, God cursed the ground so that it would produce thorns and thistles. This was a limited curse to make mankind appreciate all the wonderful gifts given to them within the garden of Eden. However, God gives life to seeds, which grow to bear fruits in due season with rain and the warmth of the sun. This fundamental working of agriculture is a gift of God to enable humans to survive and prosper.

[Psalm 136:25] Who gives food to all flesh, for His mercy endures forever.

God provided manna during the 40-year journey of the people of Israel. It was a free gift of God that fed them without having to do any farming, a generous and loving gift that points to the bounteous generosity of God. When Jesus came to this world, He declared that He is the bread of gift from God, which He gives freely to mankind. All hungry and thirsty people should come to Jesus and be fed with the living water and true manna from God.

[John 6:32-35] Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." 35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to the earth when the right time came, so that this Jesus became the greatest gift of God to humanity. Jesus died on a cross outside of Jerusalem some 2,000 years ago because we sinners cannot come near to God, and we need someone to pay ransom for our sins. He voluntarily became the sacrificial lamb and shed His precious blood so that whosoever believes in Him has access to God's free gift of eternal life in heaven. For that reason, the apostle Paul declared that the greatest gift of God is eternal life, which can be ours through our faith in Jesus Christ.

Today in America, there is no thankfulness. The spirit of gratitude has disappeared. The spirit of the Puritans who came to this new continent in search of religious freedom from oppressive Europe. They found a beautiful, free land, on which they established a new nation based on the principles of individual freedom and in the spirit of respect and fear of the Almighty God. They were grateful for the abundance of natural resources found in this land. They established a constitution, in which the principles of individual freedom and rights were established for the first time in human history. But now, the far-left extremists want to destroy the founding principles and traditions of this great nation. They have forsaken how to be thankful for all the precious gifts of God to America. We must somehow get back the humility and gratitude that God expects of us. Let us pray for the spiritual restoration of America.

All Christians should be thankful to God for giving us such wonderful natural, intellectual, and spiritual gifts that we enjoy. We should also seek to receive the more excellent spiritual gifts from God, as the apostle Paul admonished the Corinthian church.

[1 Corinthians 12:31] But earnestly desire the [a]best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

[James 1:5] If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Our heavenly Father never refuses to give good gifts to His children. He delights to give willingly, generously, and bountifully. And our Lord Jesus intercedes to God on our behalf so that we receive the excellent gifts from God. It is my prayer that all of you desire to receive great faith in Jesus and the truth of God, a clear insight to see the reality surrounding us today, a loving and generous heart that forgives easily and shows God's generosity to others, and the wisdom and perseverance to endure all life's difficulties. Amen.

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