

# Gift that Forever Gives!



#2983 1226 21A

Many gifts are received that give pleasure, enjoyment, and sometimes give good service for many years, but eventually the gift wears out, needs replacement, or has to be upgraded. A gift that *Forever Gives*, however—is something that only *God* can offer—His Spirit within to lead us to *forever* in His Kingdom! It is *living* and *giving* forever the Gift of His Spirit—John 4:14 “*The water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*”

Our responsibility is to *keep* the Gift in our heart that enables us to keep right *attitudes* and making scriptural *responses* to everything. The question to ask then is: Are we *keeping* the Gift of the Spirit, or *keeping* the attitudes of resentment, bitterness, and hard feelings! Keeping the *Gift that Forever Gives* means keeping the Spirit of Christ in our heart 24/7 and never returning that Gift!

During this holiday season, gifts of every description were *bought*, *baked*, *built*—*given*, *received*, and *exchanged*—some *needed*; some *wanted*; some *cherished*; most *enjoyed*; but all *appreciated* for the kindness and the consideration that was shown by others.

Some gifts are just *added* to our collection—but the *Gift that Forever Gives*—we must say: *I*

*am keeping this Gift!*—is never to be returned but always to be shared when given the opportunity—Colossians 1:27 “*Christ in you, the hope of glory.*” It is the Gift of the Spirit that promises everlasting life to those retaining that Gift in their heart, so they can keep making a difference in those around them.

Luke 2:39 “*And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth. 40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.*” As we return to our routines, let us take the Gift of the Spirit with us—to *guide* us and to *enable* us to be a scriptural influence on others—always!

Every gift has a *giver* and a *receiver*—*God* is the Giver and *we* are the receiver. If a gift is not accepted, it provides no benefit. We must be *sure* that we have *accepted* God’s Gift—a Gift that is *guiding*, *empowering*, and *changing* our behavior. Acts 2:38 “*Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*”

Many enjoy the holiday, but many are weary from shopping, cooking, and being too busy with too many things. After all the *anticipation* it seems strange that we are so ready to *forget* it—and returning to a normal routine is often a relief—but let us not forget the divine *love* and acts of *kindness* that were shown by many—those who gave their *time*, their *gifts*, and their *love* to us.

Christian friends must never be taken for *granted*, and the story of the Lord’s visit must never be *forgotten*. Jesus came to our world so that our next one would be with *Him*! Moving beyond the holiday does not mean that something has *ended*, but that something is *added*—the Gift of the Spirit in our heart brings fruits of

righteousness—Galatians 5:22, “*Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 5:23 gentleness, self-control.*”

Everyone who truly accepts Jesus as their Lord, should represent a new beginning of living His Truth every day, and shining forth that Truth to others. As 2021 ends, we think of the salvation plan God promised in the *past*; the forgiveness He gives in the *present*; and the eternal home He promises in the *future*—as we keep the *Gift that Forever Gives* in our heart!

Two Gospels detail the Advent season—and the Gospel of Luke enables us to re-live that moment with the shepherds; the parents; the wise men; Anna; and Simeon. The way they worshiped and adored the King, is the way we worship God and adore His Son. Our attitudes and choices should *reflect* our *faith* in Christ. Our *treatment* of people should reflect His *love* and *patience*.

Humble shepherds heard the announcement: Luke 2:14 “*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*” Peace would result for those who accept the *Gift of His Spirit*. After the holiday, all too many *return* the Gift and *retain* the attitudes they *had* prior to Advent. Keeping the *Gift of the Spirit*, means keeping the *forgiveness* we have received from God.

No one can *take* our faith in God away from us—we have to willingly *give it up*. The shepherds heard great news, and now they would glorify God every day for being the ones to experience that momentous event of seeing the King of kings. What do *we* take back with *us* after the holiday!

Luke 2:20 “*The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.*” Their lives would be *forever changed*—they would say: 1 John 1:1 “*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our*

hands have handled, of the Word of life.” God gave them a wonderful Gift—they would now retain a joyful heart.

The apostle said 1 John 1:2 “(For the life was manifested [appeared], and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us.)” Experience is more meaningful than just hearing—when we experience God’s presence, we thank and praise His Name immediately!

As the holiday fades, may our commitment to Christ increase, because the greatest Gift ever given has been offered! *Emmanuel, God with us.* God loves us so much that He gave His very best. We show appreciation by showing His divine love toward everyone.

The shepherds returned to their jobs thanking God for sharing His Gift and giving the world a Messiah. This season has *real meaning* if we leave with real *gratitude* and *appreciation* in our heart for the Gift that Forever Gives; for the Truth He showed us; for the instructions He left in a Book; and for the sacrifice He made at Calvary for everyone—giving a living hope of eternal life.

When God shows us that we need to make changes in our attitudes, or corrections in our decisions, we should make them and not ignore them. God still offers the gift of His Spirit to those who will trust His plan and walk in the light of it. When we consider that Christ died for our sins, so He could offer us forgiveness, nothing He asks should be too much—and He says, “Follow Me!”

Luke 2:11 “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” Having Christ in our heart controls every attitude toward people we meet—it is more important than we may realize.

God kept His promise to send a Savior, and to all who believe that He is who He says He is—God in flesh appearing—and as they continue to

trust in His atoning work, the promise of Paradise is given. To those who would not believe—that promise is not given. John 8:24 “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”

The devil would insert many doubts following the announcement to Mary. He would say that the Romans were in power, taxes were excessive, and laws oppressive. He would mention that a prophet had not spoken for over four hundred years and still no sign of a Messiah. But Hebrews 10:23 “He is faithful that promised,” so the Messiah arrived—just as He promised.

God has given many gifts and blessings—and we are grateful for each answer to prayer for divine healing; financial blessings right on time; divine guidance when needed; or protection from harm at the right moment. Though we are too often unfaithful, God is always faithful; though we often break our word, He will always keep His.

We are all born with a rebellious attitude that wants to sin by disobeying God. Romans 7:18 “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. 19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.”

Before we committed our life to God; before we accepted His Son; and before we received the Gift of His Spirit in our heart, we were not able to do the right thing or make a scriptural decision. We now have His Spirit—the Gift that Forever Gives! Colossians 1:27 “Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

No matter how many; how deliberate; or how serious our sins may have been, a Savior has been born in Bethlehem who will forgive them, if we will trust Him in faith to do that. Luke 2:10 “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.” It was very Good News to the entire world!

Satan is so active—we often cry out Romans 7:24 “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” Then a ray of hope and a shaft of light—a Savior is born in Bethlehem who can change us and save us from a seemingly impossible situation.

God visited earth to personally pay our debt—we should never live as if it never happened—because it did happen just as He predicted, and for a very specific reason! He came and paid the debt, so we could be free from sinful ways, wrong decisions, and resentful attitudes. John 14:15 “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”

Jesus told us to love others—not resent them; He said to show mercy—not callousness; He said to share our blessings—not stockpile more and more; He said to let anyone borrow anything—not deny them; and He said to forgive from the heart—not resent like the world. The Gift that Forever Gives enables us to treat people as we want to be treated.

Jesus told us to be: Pure in Heart; Do not be angry; Be light and salt to the world; Do not use profanity; Give to the poor secretly; Do not resist evil; Love our enemies; and pray for those persecuting us.

Jesus came to forgive our sins and to give us the Gift of His Spirit—the Gift that Forever Gives to those who love Him enough to trust Him forever!

The question is: Are we keeping the Gift that Forever Gives us a living hope of Heaven! Having Jesus in our heart today is the living hope we have for tomorrow. We humbly receive His Gift and make Him our life companion!



[www.fcqchurch.org](http://www.fcqchurch.org)

\*Be on our free mailing list—contact:  
PO Box 24283 Philadelphia, PA 19120

[info@fcqchurch.org](mailto:info@fcqchurch.org)

#2983 1226 21A