

THE RIGHT SPIRIT FOR ALL SEASONS!

#3033 1225 22A Advent

The right spirit for every season praises God for every day and treats people in a right way. Everyone eventually forgets what we *bought* them for a gift, but no one ever forgets the way we *treated* them as a person.

God promises us His Spirit by our choice to *believe* and *trust* Him for all things in life. The gift of the Spirit is far more valuable than any gift at Christmas. The *value* of a gift determines our *attitude* toward that gift. If we value a gift, we take *care* of it; we *protect* it; and we *cherish* it. We *keep* the gift and spend *time* with it.

The Gift of the Spirit that God gives, enables us to value eternal things—things *seen* are temporary, but the Spirit that is *unseen* is eternal. The apostle told the people to 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.*”

Having that *Gift* in our heart enables us to respond in Christ-like *ways*. Galatians 5:22 “*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering [patience], gentleness, goodness [kindness], faith, 23 Meekness, temperance [self-control].*” Our original *attitude* did not want to respond in scriptural *ways*.

During Advent season, people generally act in kindly ways and treat others with a little more consideration. This holiday gives us the opportunity to *shine* a light of God’s Truth in a spiritually *dark*

world—by the way we talk, act, and treat others. Everyone forgets what we *bought* them—but no one forgets how we *treated* them.

During Advent, the world is focused on getting that perfect gift for that special person. The malls are jammed with people wanting to purchase *things*—resulting in billions of consumer dollars spent during this time and putting many into serious financial debt.

Statistics say that Americans send over five billion Christmas cards this season—cards that say: *Peace on earth* and *glad tidings of great joy*, or just wishing a happy holiday. The Name of Jesus is often omitted in place of *Holiday Greetings* or *Best of the Season!* so as not to offend. The Name that must be *kept* in our hearts and *written* on our cards, is omitted by millions.

But no matter how often the Name of Jesus is ignored or left out, Scripture *will* be fulfilled. Philippians 2:9 “*God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*”

To many, the spirit of the season means good times with family and friends, or holiday meals of delicious foods. The *Right Spirit* of the season thanks God for enabling us to *enjoy* good times with family and friends—*every* season of *every* year! We should not take such blessings for granted.

To some, this holiday is one of reflection and thinking about the *changes* that have taken place in their life—but also knowing that God is in *control* of everything, and for every door that is *closed*, He will see that another is *opened*.

The way in which we *respond* and *talk* and *act* toward others in the home and elsewhere, is the *example* seen by the children—children who are

learning from our attitudes—and we must keep ever in memory, that *our words* and *ways* will someday be *their words* and *ways*.

The Gift of the Spirit of God compels us to thank Him for the privilege of assembly—joining with others in singing praise to God, listening to full Truth messages, and sharing a common faith in Christ—a common faith that comes from a Right Spirit in all seasons!

The Right Spirit of this season prompts us to give gifts to loved ones as the Magi gave gifts to Jesus. Giving a gift is always good—especially when it fills a *need* or comes from the *heart*. The world sees this season as a time for huge profits—but let us not fall into the trap of frantic buying, overspending, and credit card debt that is so common today. Let us, instead, give a gift to someone who cannot give in return. If we have a Right Spirit within, we will share our blessings.

Helping a family member repair something or houseclean a room is often more appreciated than gifts. People come *first*; gifts are *second*. With the help of God’s Spirit within, let us be careful not to insult or offend *anyone* during this season—kindness, patience, and love toward others, is always the *right attitude* during *every* season. Everyone *forgets* what we *gave* them—but *no one* forgets how we *treated* them.

Mary had the Right Spirit when she was inspired to say Luke 1:46 “*My soul doth magnify the Lord, 47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. 48 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.*”

We should *also* glorify God for the great things He has done in *our* life. Elizabeth expressed a spirit of joy and happiness when Mary visited her. She said Luke 1:43 “*Why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?*”

Zacharias was filled with the Spirit and Luke 1:67 “*Prophesied, saying, 68 Blessed be the Lord God*

of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people.” A Right Spirit at all times and in all seasons would always praise God—for He has *not* forsaken us, and He *sent* His Son to redeem our life back from the *attitudes, desires, and ways* of the world.

Praising God is the example of the heavenly host Luke 2:13 “*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*” The Prince of Peace had come—bringing *change* to the heart of anyone who will allow Him to *do* that spiritual work.

After visiting the manger—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.*” These lowly shepherds knew the *importance* of the event, and they *had* to respond with praise!

Simeon was waiting for this moment of fulfilled prophecy. Luke 2:25 “*And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.*”

With the Holy Spirit in our heart, we will also praise God for all He has done and the many blessings we enjoy.

All who had the Holy Spirit within, praised God for the Gift of His Son—Mary, Elizabeth, Zacharias, the angels, and Simeon—who praised God because Luke 2:29 “*Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word. 30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation.*” Eternal life is promised to all who will *repent* and *accept* His forgiveness by faith.

The prophetess Anna had a Right Spirit that wanted to continually thank God. She was the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She had

lived with her husband for seven years, then as a widow for eighty-four.

Luke 2:37 “*She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. 38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.*”

It all began by the arrival on earth of our Savior from Heaven—that is why we praise God in our heart every moment. The Child became our Savior, who took our place on the Cross—giving us the opportunity to live forever with Him in Paradise. Having a Right Spirit within gives the *desire* to trust God for all things in life.

Many wanted to worship the new-born King at that time, but we should worship God at *all* times and in *every* season of every year because of the eternal *Gift* He gave. It was a Gift that would mean ever-lasting life for anyone willing to trust in faith on the Blood of the Cross. For *that* Gift and *that* promise, we worship God and sing praises to His name continually.

Our *music* should praise God and the Lord Jesus. True worship comes from within—and at times we feel overwhelmed for all that God has given us. It is like having friends and family shower gifts on us for some *special* occasion—which can have us feel overwhelmed at the outpouring of love.

We *should* have that feeling in our heart every day—feeling overwhelmed at the *eternal gift* of salvation by faith in Christ—a Gift that God has *promised* to all who *love* Him; *trust* Him; and *accept* His forgiveness by faith in the atoning Blood of Jesus.

During Advent, cards are sent, and gifts are given, but true worship comes from a *heart* that is truly grateful for all of God’s blessings—family, friends, food, faith, and finally Heaven. Isaiah 29:13 “*Forasmuch as this people draw near me with*

their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me.”

Many write the name of Jesus on Christmas cards or sing His name in songs, but *true* worship comes from the *heart* and trusts Him every *day* for every *thing*.

Jesus said John 4:23 “*The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.*” True worship of the Father comes from a truly surrendered soul that is obedient to God.

The *Gift* of eternal life is priceless, and it is available to everyone of every nation who will *believe* Him and *trust* Him to convert their heart from *defiance* to *compliance*. The Right Spirit of every season is to *praise* God every day—not because of many gifts received, but *because* of His many promises that lead to His kingdom!

By the *grace* of God, through the *sacrifice* of Jesus, and with the *help* of His Spirit, let us keep everything in their proper *perspective* during this season and beyond—maintaining a Christ-like attitude toward *everything* and *everyone!* *People* come first; *gifts* come second.

With the Holy Spirit in our heart—we gladly follow the advice Hebrews 13:15 “*Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. 16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*”

People forget what we *gave* them—but they *never* forget how we *treated* them!

Come, Holy Spirit, we need you!



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