

**'GOOD & PERFECT GIFTS'**  
***(The Great Gift Exchange Between God and Man)***  
**James 1:16-18**

***“... Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with Whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. of His own will He brought us forth by the Word of truth...”***

**Love Gifts**

Christians often give *love gifts* to show tangible appreciation for someone special in their life. Usually they are so special that the love gift isn't a planned budget item, but rather it's given voluntarily, spontaneously, and generously from one's personal savings. Love gifts are extra special and when received, are usually cherished more than ordinary gifts since they are gifts of the heart not just from the wallet. Such gifts aren't just an honor to receive, they actually do something marvelously wonderful to the heart and mind of the one receiving it. Love gifts truly represent an extra generous expenditure prompted by sincere altruistic (agape / sacrificial) love that's an invisible part of the gift. A love gift transforms whoever gets it, regardless of what it is or how much it costs. Beyond something to wear, use, or gaze upon, love gifts tenderly touch the heart, mind and soul with blessedness and spiritual regeneration.

Any love gift is forever special no matter what it is, but there are some love gifts that are so special they can't wait until a special occasion like Christmas to receive. Sometimes you hear of a person donating blood or a body part to someone to save or extend their life. That truly is a gift of something so personal a price-tag can't be put upon it. Organ donors promise that upon their decease needy individuals may be given their various vital organs, eyes, etc. to save a life or enhance bodily function. These kinds of gifts literally transform those who get them. If you ever receive such a physical gift you will probably think of and thank God for the person who sacrificed part of themselves for you. Love gifts change you forever – physically and spiritually.

Christmas is about the miraculous transformation that happens to everyone who receives God's Gift of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. When God the Son came wrapped in flesh (***John 1:14, 1 Timothy 3:16***), He was God's Gift to the world (***John 3:16-18***). His whole 33-year life was a gift of love from God showing us the ideal, perfect life possible if one is indwelt by God Himself. For those 33 years, the Gift of God, Jesus, was lived under the shadow of the cross waiting for Him in the end. That strange, foreboding Christmas tree would be His final and ultimate love gift for all who trust in what He did for us as He died upon it that day (***Romans 6:23***). Christ's love gift is the eternal life that flowed in His blood to erase our sin and implant God's grace in our soul. Christ's love gift life-transplant not only saves us from spiritual death, judgment, hell, and the Lake of Fire (***John 5:24***), but if it is truly received, transforms us spiritually, morally, socially, ethically, and in every part of our being (***Ephesians 4:21-24***).

The transformation caused by impartation of Christ's life into us is so fulfilling that true Christians can't keep quiet about it. If your life had been changed by a physical transplant, you would gladly tell others all about the donor's love gift of part of him or herself, wouldn't you? Of course, you couldn't in most cases because the donor would be dead. But with Christ, He didn't stay dead – since He was God in the flesh, He arose and is alive, back home in heaven. You can tell Him *thanks* and live a life now that takes care of the love gift of life He gave you (***Romans 10:9-13***). And, if you truly have received the Gift of Him, you really should tell others who are dying without Him, that since He is alive, Jesus can save and transform them as well if they ask for it from Him. If you are reading this and haven't experienced the transforming life that comes when you receive God's love Gift of Him, you still need Him as Savior and Lord (***2 Corinthians 5:17***). Tell Him in prayer right now that you are sorry for your sins that made Him have to die for you, that you need His forgiveness and that you want Him to come into you as Savior and Lord. The love Gift of the Savior is only a prayer away – receive Him today (***John 1:12!***)

**PtL**

## **God's Good & Perfect Presentation**

*(The Transforming Power of God's Gift)*

*"...Of His own will He brought us forth by the Word of truth..." (James 1:17a)*

### **Regeneration**

**God's Life Imputed**

*('of His own will')*

*"But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through **the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit**, Whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."*

**Titus 3:4-7**

### **Justification**

**God's Spirit Imparted**

*('He brought us forth')*

*"For whom (God) foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He (Jesus) might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, **these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He Who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? **It is God Who justifies.** Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Who died, and furthermore is also risen, Who is even at the right hand of God, Who also makes intercession for us..."*

**Romans 8:29-34**

### **Sanctification**

**God's Mind Implanted**

*('by the Word of truth')*

*"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And **such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.**"*

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**