



“Christmas Presence: Giving Presence All Year”

“Christmas Presence in Your Home: A Gift of Love”

“So the Word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.” John 1:14

A. Jesus’ gift of love is celebrated at Christmas...

1. “So the Word...” That Word is Jesus!
“In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1
2. “...became human...” That is the incarnation!
“But when the right time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, subject to the law.” Galatians 4:4
3. “...and made His home among us.” That is Immanuel, “God with us!”
“I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, ‘Look, God’s home is now among His people! He will live with them, and they will be His people. God Himself will be with them.’” Revelation 21:3
4. “He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness.”
That is the person and character of Jesus!
“May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.” Ephesians 3:19
5. “And we have seen His glory...” That is why John was called an Apostle as he was an eyewitness to the resurrection!
“We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ.” 1 John 1:3

6. “...the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.”

Jesus, in unity with the Father, brought His Father’s glory!

“For the Son of Man will come with His angels in the glory of His Father and will judge all people according to their deeds.”
Matthew 16:27

B. A gift of love is action...

“Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.” 1 John 3:18

1. Love acts even when it is not deserved.
“But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” Romans 5:8
2. Love acts when there is nothing to gain.
“You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that by His poverty He could make you rich.” 2 Corinthians 8:9
3. When love acts, it changes hearts.
“Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced His perfect love.” 1 John 4:18
4. When love acts, it causes others to follow.
“I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.” John 13:15
5. When love acts, it changes everything!
“This is real love—not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.” 1 John 4:10

C. Gift-giving...

“Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. ‘For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.’ And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

1. Gift-giving began with God.
“For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16
2. Gift-giving was practiced by the wise men.
“They entered the house and saw the child with His mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” Matthew 2:11

3. Gift-giving is central to our relationship with Jesus.
“Peter replied, ‘Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” Acts 2:38

4. Gift-giving is necessary to be effective in the body of Christ.

“A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.”
1 Corinthians 12:7

5. But the greatest gift we can give is...ourselves!
“The man answered, ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” Luke 10:27

6. **So receive it.**
Receive it from God...
“Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12
...and from others!

“I don’t say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness.” Philippians 4:17

“At the moment I have all I need—and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God.”
Philippians 4:18

7. **Give it.**
Give it to God...
“Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me.’” John 14:6
“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”
2 Corinthians 5:17

...and to others!
“Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.” Luke 6:38

“Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don’t have.”
2 Corinthians 8:12
“And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these My brothers and sisters, you were doing it to Me!’”
Matthew 25:40