

October / November/ December 2024

UNWRAPPING YOUR GIFTS

Dear Friends,

It is a year to thank God for. It is a year to reflect on but it is also a year of God's gift to us. First we are blessed with the gift of life. HERE WE ARE despite all the hurdles and challenges that came with this year.

A year with the gift of of opportunities for change, growth, opportunities to serve and contribute to the good of others. A year lined with the gift of friendships, wisdom, counsel, talents, skill, courage to keep at it and influence for the positives even when things are tough. Did you unwrap God's gift to you or you unwrapped them but never really explored to see what the gift is and how it can be used or you never unwrapped any and now a wasted opportunity and resource.

In the book of Proverbs 20:12 we read that Eyes to see and ears to hear are gifts from God. Did you see opportunities and

procrastinated as the year went by. Did you ignore to heed to a call to something different because of fear and challenges or time constraints. Remember, Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. James 1:17. The year is still laddened with opportunities and possibilities to explore and serve. Remember you may end up loosing what you have if you don't use it so stir up your giftings and talents so that you don't loose them.

Your skill or talent is God's gift to you and what you do with it is your gift back to God. God expects that we put into use what he has given to us. God blesses each of us with influence, talents and gifts to serve others and glorify Him. The 2024 Paris Olympics and Paralympics games this year was a show of different talents and giftings. It is difficult not be impressed with all the shows of talents displayed there at the Olmpyics. Yet there is still a lot of opportunities to build and invest in our ourselves, into communities,

churches, neighborhoods and nations. Do something resourceful and add value this coming months of October, November and December. Pastor Enoch Adejare Adebeye quoted 'If you serve him with your skill, he will make your home a heaven on earth'.

(Exodus1:21) 1Peter4:10-11 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies - in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and

dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:10-11. Can God say this about you this year - Well done, thou good and faithful servant: You have done well this year Matthew 25:21.

We want you to know that God can use you irrespective of your culture,background, race, identity, weaknesses or disabilities. He just wants you to yield and surrender to him and so don't look down on yourself. Don't limit yourself from embracing the opportunities you still have ahead of you. In serving others with our talents, giftings and skill we learn to

embibe values such as tenacity, perseverance, courage, resilience and empathy which makes you unique. You are unique with worth and potential given to you by God. As we approach the season of Christmas it comes with another opportunity to embrace God's gift of Jesus to us. The Bible declares that God so loved us that he gave his son as a gift to us (John 3:16). As you unwrap your gifts at Christmas remember the gift of Jesus to you. God gives you the gift of eternal life in Jesus and also a life of purpose with giftings to fulfil that purpose and be a blessing when you open your heart and receive Jesus Christ into your heart. The Bible says, "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ. What will be your gift to the Lord, Jesus. Your gift to him should be your heart devotion and sharing the gift of Jesus love with others. Give lovingly, sacrificially and genuinely and serving others with love.

Here are a few Ideas and creative ways to engage and to share the gift of love and your

presence this Christmas with those around us.

1. You can organise a Christmas get together and invite a neighbour, family or join your church to organise a Christmas party and welcome new faces in church while witnessing the love of Jesus of Christ.

2. Give gifts if you can. Gifts don't have to be expensive. It is giving the gift with love that is important. God has given us his son Jesus to be with us. Celebrating this by giving gifts is a blessing to all and an act of love.

3. Give gifts to orphanages, the homeless and lonely.

4. Be a helping hand to someone in need.

“Mathew 25:35-36 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me. “Matthew 25:35-36”

5. Share Christmas cards.

6. Pray specifically for someone.

7. Tag your gifts and presents with prayers.

8. Give flowers and tag with Christmas cards

and prayers.

9. Tell and witness to someone about the love of Jesus.

10. Volunteer for a good cause.

11. Give a warm phone call or send a kind text message to someone.

12. You can also share our sermon notes in your neighbourhood. Order copies for free.

May the gift of the love of our Lord Jesus Christ be unwrapped in our lives this season and forevermore.

Further Bible Study Scriptures:

Exodus 36:1-2, Judges 20:16, 1 Chronicles 12:32-33, Proverbs 19:17, Isaiah 9:6-7, Mathew 5:16, Mathew 25:14-30, Mathew 25:31-46, Luke 19:12-27, Romans 11:29, Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 4:1-7, 1 Cor 12:22-24, 2 Corinthians 4:7-12, 2 Cor 12:9-10, Galatians 6:2, Ephesians 2:10, Ephesians 4:11, Philippians 2:3-4, Philippians 4:12-16, Colossians 3:23-24, Colossians 4:17, 1 Timothy 4:12-16, 2 Timothy 1:6, 1 Peter 4:7-11, 1 Peter 4:19.

We invite you to make Jesus the Lord, saviour and friend of your life and becoming God's child. Admit your mistakes and be willing to let God give you a new beginning.

Believe that the Lord Jesus is your Savior and He died on the cross and ressurected to save you. Confess your sins through prayer and invite Jesus Christ into your life.

Dear Lord Jesus, I am sorry for all my wrong doings, please come into my heart and live forever. I receive you as my Lord and saviour. Through Jesus I have eternal life and I am born again. Thank you Jesus. Amen

We encourage you to read your Bible from now on, talk to God in prayer, join a church and fellowship with other Christians to encourage your faith.

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