

Gifts from Heaven

Who likes to receive gifts? Everyone! The gifts we are going to explore do not require any power cords or wrapping paper. They do not need batteries. They do not have to be put together. These gifts will never have to be returned because they cannot be broken. Today we are going to study some of the gifts we receive from heaven. All are free gifts given to you. When you became a Christian, God placed these gifts as spiritual blessings directly into your heavenly account. It is important to know what He gave to you. It is just like your checking account at the bank. You cannot take money out if you do not know how much has been deposited in it. It's the same with divine gifts from God. We cannot use them unless we know what we have. Let's open your heavenly account and see what is there. There are gifts for today, tomorrow and every day. You have been given all you will ever need when Jesus is your Lord and Savior.

Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV) *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”*

Verse 3 tells us that when you were saved you were given a heavenly account full of **“every spiritual blessing.”** Let's look at some of these gifts that God has blessed you with.

Spiritual Blessing #1 - Faith

Faith is the first spiritual blessing we received from God.

Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV) *“By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God**, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”*

God gives us faith to believe in Him. It is the gift that made it possible to begin our relationship with Him. Faith is how we believe that God is who He says He is. Faith is how we believe that God can do everything He promises in His Word. We did not deserve this gift of faith. We did not do anything to earn it. It was not a reward for good works. Faith is a gift from God given to all believers. Romans 12:3 tells us, *“God has dealt to **each one** a measure of faith.”*

God's gracious gift of faith opened the door for our salvation. Because of Adam and Eve's sin, all of us were born, locked in a cage of sin. This cage is called our sin nature. We are trapped in sin. There was no way for us to escape through our own efforts. When God sent Jesus from heaven, the Lord took our sins upon Himself. He shed His blood. He died on the cross. He broke the lock off our cage of sin. He opened the door, and set us free. Through faith in Christ, we were redeemed from sin. We were released from captivity. By the gift of faith, you accepted your freedom. The Apostle Paul put it so beautifully.

1 Timothy 1:13-14 (TPT) *"Mercy kissed me, even though I used to be a blasphemer, a persecutor of believers, and a scorner of what turned out to be true. I was ignorant and didn't know what I was doing. {14} I was flooded with such incredible grace, like a river overflowing its banks, until I was full of faith and love for Jesus, the Anointed One!"*

Every day we can draw from this gift of faith. It gives us great power through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 11:1-3 (TPT) *"Now faith brings our hopes into reality and becomes the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for. It is all the evidence required to prove what is still unseen. {2} This testimony of faith is what previous generations were commended for. {3} Faith empowers us to see that the universe was created and beautifully coordinated by the power of God's words! He spoke and the invisible realm gave birth to all that is seen."*

Hebrews chapter 11 speaks of many heroes of faith from the Old Testament. One of them is Abraham. He was 100 years old and his wife Sarah was 90. God made Abraham what seemed to be an impossible promise. He promised that he and Sarah would have a child and become a great nation.

God told Abraham in Genesis 15:5-6, *"Count the stars if you are able to number them.... So shall your descendents be." {6} And he [Abraham] believed in the Lord and He [God] accounted it to him [Abraham] as righteousness."*

Abraham and Sarah did not understand how it could happen. All these years they had never had even one child. But by faith, they believed God.

Romans 4:19-21 (NKJV) *“And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. {20} He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was **strengthened in faith**, giving glory to God, {21} and **being fully convinced** that what He had promised He was also able to perform.”*

Abraham did not waiver. He was **strengthened by in faith** - the faith that God had given him. He was **fully convinced** that God was able to do what He had promised - even though it seemed impossible. God gave you that same faith. You used applied faith when you accepted Jesus. That same faith is still in your heavenly account.

- You can access it at any time.
- You can build on it. You can increase it.
- You too can be fully convinced that God can do what He has promised to you - even though it seems impossible.

Faith was the first gift deposited in your spiritual account. It was the foundation for your life as part of the family of God. This brings us to the next spiritual blessing - Adoption.

Spiritual Blessing #2 - Adoption

Ephesians 1:5-6 (NKJV) *“having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, (6) to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.”*

Verses 5-6 tell us it was always God’s *“perfect plan to adopt us as his delightful children, through our union with Christ”* (TPT). When God adopted and accepted you, He embraced you and took you into His family. We are His sons and daughters.

Forever Members of the Family

We have some friends who did something amazing. It really touched our hearts. The husband and wife are both over 50 years old. They are pastors for the Spanish ministry at our church. They have two grown daughters who are married. They heard of a situation where

four small children - three sisters and a brother, were abandoned by their mother. The youngest boy was 14 months old and the oldest of the three girls was 8 years old. They had been abused and not cared for by their mother. There was no father in their lives. There were no relatives that could take them. The authorities at Family and Children Services had taken the children into their custody. The children were going to be separated from one another and each one was going to be sent to a different home to be cared for by a different foster parent.

Our friends decided that it was the will of God to keep the children together as a family. So, they volunteered to accept all four children into their home to care for them. The children were so neglected our friends even had to teach them how to brush their teeth and keep themselves clean. They began as temporary foster parents to these children. After a few years, the courts decided that the birth mother was someone who would never take care of her children. She did not even appear in court to fight for her children. So, our friends legally adopted them. These children became their children. They are providing a godly, loving, caring home as their parents. The adoption makes these children forever members of their family. They are entitled to all the love, rights and blessings of being part of that family.

All of us who know Christ have a testimony of adoption that, in many ways, parallels the story of these four children. For us, it is adoption of the spiritual, eternal kind. We were all living a life of being abused and mistreated by the devil. But the Word of God tells us that we were “*bought with a price.*” (1 Corinthians 6:20) It was the price of Jesus’ shed blood on the cross. We were redeemed by Jesus, so that we could be adopted by God as sons and daughters.

Galatians 4:4-7 (TPT) “But when that era came to an end and the time of fulfillment had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the written law. {5} Yet all of this was so that he would redeem and set free all those held hostage to the written law so that we would receive our freedom and a full legal adoption as his children. {6} And so that we would know for sure that we are his true children, God released the Spirit of Sonship into our hearts—moving us to cry out

intimately, “My Father! You’re our true Father!” {7} Now we’re no longer living like slaves under the law, but we enjoy being God’s very own sons and daughters! And because we’re his, we can access everything our Father has—for we are heirs of God through Jesus, the Messiah!”

Just like our friends adopted these four children into their family, God adopts every believer into His family. Now, *“in Christ,”* we have all the rights of a son and daughter. We are His heirs. All God has He willingly and lovingly gives to us. It is ours. He is our loving Father. We are His children whom He loves. We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Romans 8:15-17 (TPT) “And you did not receive the “spirit of religious duty,” leading you back into the fear of never being good enough. But you have received the “Spirit of full acceptance,” enfolding you into the family of God. And you will never feel orphaned, for as he rises up within us, our spirits join him in saying the words of tender affection, “Beloved Father!” (Daddy or Papa – a term of endearment) {16} For the Holy Spirit makes God’s fatherhood real to us as he whispers into our innermost being, “You are God’s beloved child!” {17} And since we are his true children, we qualify to share all his treasures, for indeed, we are heirs of God himself. And since we are joined to Christ, we also inherit all that he is and all that he has. We will experience being co-glorified with him provided that we accept his sufferings as our own.”

God is with us always. We have a close personal relationship with Him because of Christ. As children of God, in Christ, we have an open door to the throne of God. We can communicate with Him at any time, day or night. We know that He hears our prayers. We know He answers our prayers.

Matthew 7:7-11 (TPT) “Ask, and the gift is yours. Seek, and you’ll discover. Knock, and the door will be opened for you. {8} For every persistent one will get what he asks for. Every persistent seeker will discover what he longs for. And everyone who knocks persistently will one day find an open door. {9} “Do you know of any parent who would give his hungry child, who asked for food, a plate of rocks instead? {10} Or when asked for a piece of fish, what parent would offer his child a snake instead? {11} If you, imperfect as you are, know how to lovingly take care of your children and give them what’s best, how

much more ready is your heavenly Father to give wonderful gifts to those who ask him?"

How Big is God?¹

"A boy asked his father: "Dad! How big is God?" The father (Seeing this as an opportunity to give a good lesson to his son) said: "It depends..." To which the son answered with curiosity: "Why?" Looking to the sky, his father saw an airplane and asked his son what size did he think that airplane was? The child replied: "Very small, it looks very small, I can barely see it!" Then the father took him to the airport and being close to a plane he asked: "Now how big is the plane?" And the boy replied very amazed: "Dad, it's huge. Wow! So so big."

The father then said: "This is how God is for you. His size will depend on the distance that you have from Him, and likewise that will affect your view of Him, your concept of Him and your experience with him. The closer you are to God, the bigger He will be in your life and your concept of Him will be of a Great, Awesome, Loving and Powerful God that He is."

How close are you today to your heavenly Father? We all need to take a closer look at God today, tomorrow and the next day.

God is our heavenly Father. When you are in Christ, you are a member of God's family. When you draw closer and closer to your heavenly Father, the following happens:

- The closer you get to Him, the more you will learn about Him.
- The closer you get to Him, the more you will know how much He loves you.
- The closer you get to Him, the more you will love Him.
- The closer you get, the more spiritual blessings you will discover.
- Also, as we all grow closer to God we will find ourselves closer to our sisters and brothers in Christ. We have all been adopted into the same family. We have been given as gifts to each other. We are the body of

¹ "How Big is God? By Jonathan Salomon.

Christ. We are to “*encourage each other... build each other up.*”² “*Bear one another’s burdens.*”³ We have all been adopted into God’s family. We are all “*living stones*” being built into a “*spiritual house.*”⁴

Proverbs 27:17 says, “*Iron sharpens iron. So one man sharpens another.*”

A dull knife is not as effective as a sharp one. As a church, and as the family of God, as we continue to encourage one another, support one another and stand for Christ together, our strength will grow both individually and corporately. The sharper the blade is, the more it shines. The more we shine, the more people will come to know Christ.

Spiritual Blessing #3 - Forgiveness

Ephesians 1:7 (NKJV) “*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.*”

A Clean Slate, Free from All Guilt and Shame

Imagine being in a courtroom where you are on trial for something you did. There is a lot of evidence to prove you are guilty. The judge is about to decide your punishment. Then Jesus steps into the courtroom. He tells the judge He already took the blame for everything you have done. He has already paid the price. The judge looks at Jesus. Then the judge looks at you. He has no choice but to declare you are innocent. It is the same when you come to God. When God looks at you, He looks at you through Christ. God declares you not guilty because of the blood of the Lamb. When we accept Jesus in our hearts as Lord and Savior we are instantly forgiven for our sins. No matter what we have done, God forgives us. We are given a clean slate. We are set free from all guilt and shame.

When we are saved, forgiveness is another permanently gift deposited in our spiritual accounts. All of us experience failures and face sin in our lives. We can draw the gift of forgiveness from our accounts whenever we

² 1 Thessalonians 5:11 “*So encourage each other to build each other up, just as you are doing.*”

³ Galatians 6:2 “*Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*”

⁴ 1 Peter 2:5.

confess and repent from sin.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV) *“If we confess our sins. He is faithful and just to forgive us from all unrighteousness.”*

God will forgive us and cleanse us every time we repent, because of Christ. Does this mean we can just go ahead and sin all we want? NO! Paul says in Romans 6:1 (TPT) *“So what do we do then? Do we persist in sin so that God’s kindness and grace will increase? What a terrible thought!”*

“The purpose of grace and forgiveness is not that we have a “get out of jail” card to play whenever we proceed with some sin. The purpose of grace and forgiveness is that our ... [evil, wicked] sins can be wiped up and tossed away so that we can live a “new” life in Christ.”⁵

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*

Our lives should be focused on pleasing God and doing His will. We are ambassadors for Christ and should be living in ways that reflect our new position in Christ. Part of that new life in Christ is forgiving others. Not only do we receive forgiveness, but the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to forgive others. We do not have to be in bondage to unforgiveness, bitterness or anger. Draw forgiveness from your heavenly account for yourself and towards others.

There are so many more spiritual blessings that God has given to us. He has given us peace, joy, spiritual weapons, and wisdom. There are so many other things are available in our heavenly account, and of course – eternal life.

John 3:16 (NKJV) *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

1 John 2:25 (NKJV) *“And this is the promise that He has promises us – eternal life.”*

⁵ Roger – “preachitteachit.org “Can I sin all I want and still get forgiveness?”

We will spend eternity in the presence of God, and with all our loved ones who know Christ. This will be eternity spent in never-ending joy, peace, and love in the presence of God. There is nothing on this earth that compares to what God has waiting for us.

These are only some of the many spiritual blessings we have “in Christ.” We have been given so many “*precious and great*” promises

2 Peter 1:3-4 (TPT) *“Everything we could ever need for life and godliness has already been deposited in us by his divine power. For all this was lavished upon us through the rich experience of knowing him who has called us by name and invited us to come to him through a glorious manifestation of his goodness. {4} As a result of this, he has given you magnificent promises that are beyond all price, so that through the power of these tremendous promises you can experience partnership with the divine nature, by which you have escaped the corrupt desires that are of the world.”*

Conclusion

You are a child of God. You have been given, by faith, “*every spiritual blessing.*” (Ephesians 1:3) You have been adopted into the family of God. You have been forgiven. We have all been blessed with these and many more gifts from heaven.

As you read the Word of God, make your own list of spiritual gifts and blessings that God has given you. You can draw from your heavenly account of spiritual blessings over and over again. It will never be empty. It will always be fully supplied from heaven with fresh deposits from God every day.

Stir yourself up. Remind yourself of all that you have been given. Be grateful, thankful and humbled by the exceeding abundance that is yours. Now, take some time to think about all you have been given. Seek God to see what other blessings and gifts have been deposited in your heavenly account. His gifts to you and me are perfect, always available and given for a purpose.

We have been given Gifts from Heaven to Fulfill Our Purpose Here on Earth.

There is purpose behind every one of our spiritual blessings. When by God's grace you were saved, though faith adopted and forgiven, He gave you good works especially for you to do. You are important to God and valuable to the Kingdom of God.

Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV) "By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, (9) not of works, lest anyone should boast. (10) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

(TPT) verse 10b "Even before we were born, God planned in advance our destiny and the good works we would do to fulfill it!"

You were not only created for good works, but equipped to do whatever God asks you to do. As you become who God helps you to be.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (TPT) "Every Scripture has been written by the Holy Spirit, the breath of God. It will empower you by its instruction and correction, giving you the strength to take the right direction and lead you deeper into the path of godliness. {17} Then you will be God's servant, fully mature and perfectly prepared to fulfill any assignment God gives you."

As we embrace who we are in Christ and begin to understand all the heavenly blessings available to us, we can reflect Jesus to everyone we meet. We can be the hands and feet of God. Our beliefs should be demonstrated in our faith-filled behavior.

You have been *"thoroughly equipped for every good work"* (2 Tim 3:16-17). You have been given *"all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of Him."* (2 Peter 1:3)

The Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to have that same unshakeable belief and obedience to do what Jesus asks of us, both "inwardly for life and outwardly for ministry." The Holy Spirit resides in us. He guarantees all the promises of God. He makes it possible for every one of us to live a

Spirit-led life. Earlier, we read of Jesus' words in John Chapter 16:13-14 that, *"when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; ... He will tell you things to come. {14} ...He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you."* When we accepted Christ into our hearts, a completely new world opened up to us. Our spirits were born-again. The Holy Spirit came to live inside of us. We are no longer left to figure things out exclusively by our own thinking or to solve our problems alone. We now have direct access to our almighty, all-knowing, all-powerful, ever-present, all-loving God, through the Holy Spirit inside of us. We are given the privilege of getting wisdom and understanding from God to help us navigate through life.

It was through the Holy Spirit that we first met with God - and it is in the spirit realm that we grow to know Him more. As we build a strong, on-going, daily relationship with the Holy Spirit, we become more and more sensitive to His voice, as He speaks to our hearts, giving us instruction and direction. **We learn to listen for, and hear the voice of the Holy Spirit.**

Can Every Christian Hear the Voice of the Holy Spirit?

Yes. Every believer can hear the voice of God and be led by the Holy Spirit. You do not need to be someone who has been a Christian for a long time. If you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you have already personally heard and responded to the voice of the Holy Spirit. That is how you became a Christian.

1 Corinthians 12:3 (NLT) *"... no one is able to say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit."*

As we saw in Romans 8:11, *"The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you."* The Holy Spirit has come to live in you!

1 John 4:13 (NLT) *"And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us."*

We are one spirit with God.

1 Corinthians 6:17 (NLT) *"But the person who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him."*

One of the greatest gifts God gives us is a personal relationship with Him. He wants to communicate with us, to have a vibrant, exciting, on-going dialogue with us. He wants to hear from us and for us to hear from Him.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10; 14-16 (NLT) "That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." {10} But we know these things because God has revealed them to us by his Spirit, and his Spirit searches out everything and shows us even God's deep secrets."

God is ready to speak to you. Are you ready to listen? Do you really want to hear from God all the time, in every situation? If so, tell Him.

- Tell Him that you want to hear His voice.
- Tell Him you want to obey His commands and follow His instructions.
- Allow the Holy Spirit to direct your steps. He will guide and direct you. He will help you discover all of the spiritual blessings available to you.

Your account in heaven is full to overflowing. Embrace the gifts from heaven that God has given to you. You will fulfill your purpose and live a life that is successful, satisfying and significant for both you and the Kingdom of God.