

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR GOD?

Christmas began in the heart of God. It is only complete when it reaches the heart of man. – **Anonymous**

Christmas is not just a day of the year. It is also – and more importantly – a condition of the heart. – **Marie T. Freeman**

The Christmas message is that there is hope for humanity, hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of Glory. – **J. I. Packer**

In Commanding us to glorify Him, God is inviting us to enjoy Him. – **C.S. Lewis**

God will help us become the people we are meant to be, if only we will ask Him. – **Hannah Whitall Smith**

Have you ever received a Christmas gift that just made you feel glad all over? Isn't that great!! But have you ever considered that you could give God a gift at Christmas time that could actually bring gladness to His heart? Wouldn't it be great if we could give Him a gift like that this year? You really can do it! You can give the Lord that kind of gift...you actually can give a gift that will make His heart glad!

But how?? I'm so glad you asked!!

15My son, if your heart is wise, my own heart also will be glad;

16And my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak what is right.

17Do not let your heart envy sinners but *live* in the fear of the LORD always.

18Surely there is a future and your hope will not be cut off.

19Listen, my son, and be wise, and direct your heart in the way.

20Do not be with heavy drinkers of wine, or with gluttonous eaters of meat;

21For the heavy drinker and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe *one* with rags.

22Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

23Buy truth, and do not sell *it*, get wisdom and instruction and understanding.

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24The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who sires a wise son will be glad in him.

25Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her rejoice who gave birth to you.

26Give me your heart, my son, and let your eyes delight in my ways. **Proverbs 23:15-26**

NASB

- How can I possibly make God's heart glad? (**Proverbs 23:15-16**)
 - If your heart is wise, His heart is glad! His 'inmost being' rejoices when your heart is filled with wisdom and your lips speak what is right!
 - "My son, if you are wise, then my own heart is glad, and my innermost self-rejoices when from your lips come honest words." (**Prov 23:16 Jerusalem Bible**)
 - "A man who loves wisdom makes his father glad..." (**Proverbs 29:3**)
 - A heart that is growing in wisdom and produces communication that flows with rightness and truth brings joy to God's heart.
 - An expression of God's glad heart. (**Zephaniah 3:17, Isaiah 62:4-5**)

- His desire is for us to know truth and wisdom in our innermost being and when we do it gives Him joy in His innermost being. (**Psalm 51:6**)
 - What gives God joy and causes him delight?
 - When we know Him as He truly is.

23Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches;

24but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD. **Jeremiah 9:23-24 NASB**

6 For I desire *and* delight in dutiful steadfast love *and* goodness, not sacrifice, and the knowledge of *and* acquaintance with God more than burnt offerings. **Hosea 6:6 AMPC**

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18 Who is a God like You, who forgives iniquity and passes over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retains not His anger forever, because He delights in mercy *and* loving-kindness.

19 He will again have compassion on us; He will subdue *and* tread underfoot our iniquities. You will cast all *our* sins into the depths of the sea. [Ps. 103:12.]

20 You will show Your faithfulness *and* perform the sure promise to Jacob and loving-kindness *and* mercy to Abraham, as You have sworn to our fathers from the days of old. [Luke 1:54, 55.] **Micah 7:18-20**

- He delights in rescuing us.

16 He sent from on high, He took me; He drew me out of many waters.

17 He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me.

18 They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the LORD was my stay.

19 He brought me forth also into a broad place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me. **Psalm 18:16-19 NASB**

- He delights in divine balance.

1 A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is His delight. **Proverb 11:1 NASB**

- He delights in the walk of the blameless.

They who are willfully contrary in heart are extremely disgusting *and* shamefully vile in the eyes of the Lord, but such as are blameless *and* wholehearted in their ways are His delight! **Proverb 11:20 AMPC**

- He delights in the truthful and faithful.

Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal faithfully are His delight. **Proverb 12:22 NASB**

- He loves and delights in the prayer and pursuit of the upright.

8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight.

9 The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but He loves one who pursues righteousness. **Proverb 15:8-9 NASB**

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- Wisdom is seeing things from God's perspective and acting accordingly.
 - A look at wisdom:
 - Wisdom from the beginning: **Proverbs 8:12-17;22-23; 29-30**
 - The pursuit of wisdom. **Proverbs 2:1-12**
 - The spirit of wisdom. **Isaiah 11:1-5**
 - An Attribute of God. **Romans 11:33, I Corinthians 1:21, Ephesians 3:10**
 - A possession of Jesus. **Colossians 2:1-3**
 - Concepts of wisdom in the New Testament:
 - Wisdom is personified in the NT (**Matthew 11:19; Luke 7:35; 11:49**) just as it is in the OT (**Proverbs 8:12-36**) Wisdom is a gift from God (**Ephesians 1:17, James 1:5**) and specifically can be a spiritual gift (**I Corinthians 12:8**) Paul's prayer for the Colossians is that they may be filled with 'knowledge of God's will through all spiritual wisdom' so that they may walk in a manner worthy of Him, bearing fruit, and being strengthened (**Colossians 1:9-11**); wisdom is, therefore, part of the believers spiritual growth (**Colossians 1:28**). It is a way of living (**Colossians 3:16, James 3:13-17**), it is practical rather than speculative. -**Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of the Old and New Testaments**
 - We have the opportunity and the capacity to make glad the heart of God. Amazing! Let's pursue Him, ask for wisdom, and live in ways that cause us to grow, others to be blessed, and God to be glad of heart.