



God's Gift to You This Christmas

"For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isa. 9:6

In the birth of Christ, God gives me...

1. The gift of _____
*"And he will be called Wonderful **Counselor**..."*

Jesus is the ultimate counselor: Being _____, he knows how I _____; being _____, he knows what I _____.

2. The gift of _____
*"And he will be called... **Mighty God**"*

Hebrew: _____ God; the One who brings _____ out of _____.

Look at the context of Isaiah 9:6: *"Ah, sinful nation, a people loaded with guilt" Is. 1:4*

"I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings... And they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.' At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. 'Woe to me!' I cried. 'I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips'..." Is. 6:1-5

"The Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call Him Immanuel (God With Us)" Is. 7:14

3. The gift of _____
*"And he will be called... Everlasting **Father**"*

*"He predestined us to be **adopted** as his sons through Jesus Christ..." Eph. 1:5*

4. The gift of _____
*"And he will be called... the Prince of **Peace**." Isa. 9:6*

*"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Rom. 5:1*

How can I enjoy God's gift?

*"...and the **government** will be on his shoulders..."*

The key: I allow God to _____

Unwrapping God's Gift

Daily meditations based on this week's message

This week's memory verse:

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Monday

Read Isaiah 9:6 again.

In what areas of your life do you need to see these four aspects of Jesus:

Where do you need His "Wonderful Counsel"?

Where do you need the power of the "Mighty God"?

How do you need to sense the care of your "Everlasting Father"?

Where are you restless and need the "Prince of Peace"?

Take some time today to write a prayer thanking God for sending Jesus to save you, using Isaiah 9:6 as a template for your prayer.

Now pray your written prayer-- thank God today for all the ways He meets your needs.

Tuesday

Read Luke 2:26-38. What interests or impresses you about this story?

Gabriel says Mary has found "God's favor". Someone once said that God wants to give us His *favor*, while we want his *favours*. What's the difference?

How does Gabriel's message to Mary support the idea that Jesus is divine?

How can you apply Gabriel's words in verse 37 to something you are facing right now-- a challenge, a temptation, a doubt?

How can Mary's attitude in verse 38 inform your own attitude when God brings unexpected circumstances into your life?

Pray Mary's prayer in verse 38 to God today: Give your will, your heart, your thoughts, your life, completely over to Him.

Wednesday

It's Christmas Eve! Read Luke 2:1-20. Luke emphasizes the extremely humble circumstances of Jesus' birth: No room in the inn, a feeding trough for a bed-- even the angels appear not to kings or priests but to shepherds, one of the lowest classes in society at the time. Why do you think the Bible emphasizes this?

Why do you think God came like this instead of in comfortable surroundings?

Why do you think God chose shepherds instead of others?

The angels said that Jesus brought "peace" and "favor". How has Jesus specifically done that in your life?

Spend time today thanking God for what He did that first Christmas.

Thursday

Merry Christmas! Read the Christmas story in Matthew 2:1-12. Try to read it in a translation other than the one you usually use, just to get a different perspective. What was the response of the magi in 2:11?

Notice that they had gifts with them; but at this moment, even those gifts were forgotten! Why not do what the magi did today? For a while today, leave the gifts and simply do as the wise men: "They threw themselves before him, and worshipped him"!

Sing songs of worship to Jesus, or simply pray in adoration, thanking Him for what He has done for you! What gifts do you bring to him today?

Friday

Read Philippians 2:1-11. Starting in verse five, Paul essentially describes what Christmas must have been like for Jesus! Paul says we are to have the same attitude as Jesus had when he became human. What do you think he means by that?

In what practical ways can you have an incarnational spirit this week?

Thank God that he came to earth as Jesus for you!

Saturday

First, please pray for our services this weekend as we begin a brand new series about changing those stubborn habits in your life. Second, please review the memory verse for this week. Have you received this wonderful gift of God? If not, why not do so today by praying a simple prayer like this: *Lord, I admit my need for you. I believe you came that first Christmas as God in human form, and that you died for my sins. I give you my life.*