

The Master Gift List

by Karen Maio

I am a list maker. Grocery lists, errand lists, and checklists for appointments...the list could go on! I like to be organized, and I believe a master Christmas gift list could be a helpful tool to utilize all year long to alleviate disorganization or December stress. The Bible says, "But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way"(I Corinthians 14:40). Granted, the apostle Paul was talking about different forms of worship, and not Christmas shopping, but I think it's still a fitting saying (no pun intended).

List who you have to buy a gift for (that's right, "have to"...wow, mandatory gifts sure can take the joy right out of Christmas, but don't let it. You already know that if you don't buy a gift for somebody on this list, trouble would ensue, so smile and as you include these individuals on the list, try to think of something nice about each person and maybe next year they will be in the "want to buy for" group). Remind yourself that if "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7) of gifts to further his kingdom, he'd probably want that same attitude towards our Christmas gift recipients.

- List who you want to buy a gift for.
- Jot down items you think each recipient might like or need. Listen for hints from them. Pick up special items you might find throughout the year and set them aside. (Remember where you put them!)
- Reevaluate this list based on your budget. This is the area where many women get in trouble. God likes generosity, but he also wants us to be smart with our money and practice good stewardship.
- Trim the list accordingly.
- As you wrap your presents, make a mental list of all our gifts from the manger - the Word made flesh, joy, love, hope, life, light, peace, and the list could go on...

Dear Lord Jesus, just as the wise men brought you gifts in honor of your blessed birth, so we, too, in the spirit of the season, now celebrate by giving gifts to one another. Help us give with a spirit of love and generosity. Forgive us for any grudging "have to" gifts; turn them into "want to" gifts. Help us stay within our means as we make our purchases. Forgive our readiness to spend at the check-out register, but our reluctance to make generous offerings to you and the work of your Church. Grant us good organization and sound Christian money management practices. Thank you for all the gifts you have given to us! Amen.



Season: Advent

Video: 13. Christmas or Chaos-mas?

Devotions: 132. Self-Control

153. When Did I See You?

Prayer: 39. Lord, every time I'm sick or things don't go as planned...

Super Girl: 51. 'Twas the day after Christmas...

Scripture References: 1 Corinthians 14:33; Colossians 2:5; Exodus 25:2; Deuteronomy 15:10; 1 Chronicles 29:9, 17; Proverbs 11:25; Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:12; Philemon 1:14

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