

Given to You

by Christine Wentzel

It's the hunting season for gift-givers everywhere. For some this is a thrill, for others it's a nerve-wracking, guilt-driven chore. But whatever the motivation, the expectations are the same-you are hoping the recipient will love it, like it or at least appreciate the gesture.



The big day arrives and as the sound of ripping wrapping paper fills the stillness of barely contained excitement, you might just hear some of these real-life comments:

"I don't know why you would think I need this."
"I hope you saved the receipt."
"Here you keep it - I'll never use it"
"You must think I need a bath, with all these perfumes and stuff."
"Hey thanks, now I have two of them."
"You shouldn't have.....no really you shouldn't have!!!"
"This IS a joke, right?"

The next sound you hear is the whoosh! of the wind taken out of your sails. Ugh, the disappointment on both sides of that gift. The giver sees its potential and the receiver sees it lacking-neither expectation is met, and both feel the pain of it.

Truth is told, I've been on both ends, and not just with gifts given by friends and family, but maybe even more so by gifts given by my heavenly Abba. Throughout a typical day there might be grumbling over my body: too fat or too broken; over my clothes: too outdated or too small; over my food: too blah or too difficult to cook. Insert everything that doesn't meet our expectations and we get the ugly picture.

Wonder how God's expectations are holding up after hearing all that? Well glory be to mercy that they are just fine. His have been more than met for us because of the greatest gift He ever gave and will ever give, His Son, Jesus Christ. For us and our grumbling He gave His Son to come to earth to do everything right, to give and receive humbly, perfectly, and to pay the ultimate price for the ultimate gift of restoration. To then shower us with gifts for every possible need and so much more, and to prepare a heavenly mansion to live with Him forever-hello! Thank you Jesus!

This holy season of the highest everlasting expectations, remember every good and perfect gift is from above. May the exclamations when opening that blessed Gift and all the presents that follow be met with wonder and tons of oohh's and aahh's!

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. James 3:17



Season: Advent

Video: 22. Rejoice in the Lord...always?

Devotions: 12. Do not be afraid - Do not fear

45. Where's My Rose Garden?

85. The Love Dare

156. You'll Never Believe #4!

161. We are SO Blessed!

181. You are always on my mind

192. Post-Valentine's Day

214. K.I.S.S.

Prayer: 48. Oh Father, my friend has just lost a loved one and...

Super Girl: 150. "In the absence of a moral compass, we are left with nothing more than how we feel..."

Scripture References: Matthew 5:9; Luke 6:36; Romans 12:9; 2 Corinthians 6:6;

2 Corinthians 7:11; Titus 3:2; Hebrews 12:11; James 1:5, 17; James 2:4

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