

Gifts



Do you remember seeing those packages under the Christmas tree? All wrapped up and just teasing you with, "What is in that package?"

Sometimes the shape of the package would be a clue...but not very often. Especially if the package was wrapped in such a manner to throw you off guard. My brothers and I always made lists so that Santa would fulfill our wishes. And speaking of Santa, my folks kept the tradition going on no matter how old we were. They always hid gifts that would suddenly appear Christmas morning.

I remember one time when I wanted a new bow for playing my violin. Not a cheap gift but I still hoped that my wish would come true. Of course, Mom definitely pulled a "fast one" and made sure that the packaging looked nothing like a bow! So when I unwrapped it, the gift was a miracle to me.

Birthday gifts were a surprise, too. I'm sure that Mom and Dad enjoyed seeing the smiles and laughter that was a result of their knowing our needs and desires both.

One year I worked for a dress shop in Odessa as a gift wrapper. What a surprise that Christmas when I recognized the wrapping paper that we used in the store was on a package for me. I had wrapped my own gift! Mom and Dad really got a laugh out of that.

We were not a wealthy family, but there were always some wonderful gifts that would appear. Lots of thought and love went into those packages.

I loved being a gift giver too. I would do my chores at home to earn my allowance and would baby sit for a family many times to add a few bucks to my pocketbook. My joy would be to see that I had paid attention to remarks that were made and would make me aware of the wishes of my folks or my brothers.

Some gifts I handmade if I had an idea that would bring a smile to a loved one's face. And when I made homemade gifts, I always included my personal love into the creation.

I know that part of the gift of love was the message that I received from God. Did He not give us the supreme gift? Sending His beloved Son to be with us, to teach us, to love us, and to sacrifice his life to save us from our sinful ways. I rely on that gift every day because I'm sure to mess up on a daily basis.

But that wonderful gift that God gave us, His only Son Jesus, is a gift we didn't have to earn. That's the amazing part. All that is required is our belief in Jesus and turning our lives over to Him. Not only does He comfort us in times of sorrow, but He provides His love and power for us to get through the tough times.

That gift was the best wrapped package of all...knowing that one day, we will join our Savior and rejoice with Him in Heaven.

Thank you Lord for being the gift of eternal life with you.

Jackie Abbott