

## The Gift of God

This is the term that Jesus used when He met a woman at the well. She came to draw water with her pot. Jesus asked her for a drink but she was reluctant to give Him. At that moment Jesus answered her, *“If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water.”* (John 4:10)

### What is the gift of God bringing to you?

- 1- **Eternal Life:** Since the creation of the world, God has a perfect plan for mankind. He first created man in His own image. *“In the image of God He created Him; male and female He created them.”* This is the first manifestation of God’s gift; He created man in His own image. But man disobeyed God and fallen into sin when he ate from the fruit of the forbidden tree. Man’s sin and disobedience separated him from God and a big gap was placed between them. Man at the beginning was living with God and God was walking with man in the Garden of Eden. But when man committed sin the Lord God drove him from His presence, outside the Garden of Eden. Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, so death came to all man because of sin. Yet, God’s love for mankind remained and He planned to re-establish His relationship to all men by His Gift. *“But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!”* (Romans 8:15)

*“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* (Romans 6:23) God sent His son to the world to save mankind from sin and death, *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.”* (John 3:16-17) Jesus came from heaven to rescue us, to snatch us from the lake of fire. Jesus suffered and died on the cross. But His death on the cross gave us life eternal. Let us not be misled; salvation and eternal life does not come because we are religious or because we do good works. Salvation and eternal life is a gift of God through Jesus Christ. *“For it is by grace you have been saved through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. Not by works so that no one can boast.”* (Ephesians 2:8-9)

The word “gift” means something we receive free. We did not work for it and we do not need to pay for it but to keep it, to use it and show or tell others about it. Salvation and eternal life only comes through faith in Christ Jesus. To believe and have faith in Jesus is the only way to receive salvation and assurance of eternal life with God. When we receive Jesus as our Lord and Saviour there is no more fear of death or the grave. Because Jesus did not remain in the grave but He rose on the third day. So He lives and we too shall live with Him forever.

- 2- **Justification:** The gift of eternal life that Jesus gave to us through His death on the cross has not only freed us from sin, but frees us from all condemnation and guilt feelings. We do not fear and think about hell or the fire that God has set to punish the wicked because we become righteous through the blood of Jesus and we shall live by faith. This is the gift of God. Likewise, if someone is accused of a certain crime and court sentenced him to be in prison for many years as punishment and as discipline for his criminal act that person after he spent that period of time in the prison will be released to live again in this world. He might have been freed from jail, however in front of the people he is still condemned as criminal or having bad record. He himself might not be able to face the world and could not live a normal life. But by the blood of Jesus that was shed on the cross, his sins are covered, he is not only forgiven but justified as without sin or blemish as long as he believes in Christ Jesus.

*“Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man’s sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification.”* (Romans 5:16) When we receive Jesus we are no longer ashamed of our previous sins as long as we repented because Jesus himself took our shame on the cross. Jesus offered His pierced hands and brought us out from the prison of sin to live a righteous life. *“For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through one man, Jesus Christ.”* (Romans 5:17) What a wonderful gift we receive from Jesus! We are not only forgiven but also not condemned to what we have done; we are justified by faith in Christ Jesus our Lord. This is the gift of God.

- 3- **Abundant Life:** *“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”* (James 1:17) The gift of God is good as well as perfect and complete. If God has already planned to give us a gift, He will not change His mind and He will not take it away from us unless we turn our back from Him. Jesus is the perfect gift of God. In receiving such a gift we enter into a new life – a life that is full of joy and peace, full of assurance, and full of grace. The provision of God to our daily need is abundant and the guidance of God for each day of our life is profound and clear. Jesus said, *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may life, and have it to the full.”* (John 10:10) The gift of God through faith in Jesus is to have an abundant life here on earth and in the next life to come.

**My dear and beloved:** My prayer for you is to know and experience the gift of God; that you will have abundant life – your day is secured and your tomorrow is assured – as you pray:

**My Prayer:** *“Heavenly Father, I come before you in the name of Jesus. I want to receive your gift that is eternal and abundant life through Christ Jesus my Lord. Wash me with your blood, Lord. Wipe away my sins. Sustain me with your love and your grace until I receive the new abundant life to the full in Christ Jesus, my Lord, my God and my Savior.”* Amen.