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><> ><> ><> ><> ><> WAYNE BROOKE <>< <>< <>< <>< <><

Dear Friends in Christ:

Praise God for the wonderful gifts He has given.

When I stop to think about it, everything I have is a gift. That makes me very thankful when I acknowledge that I am not self sufficient but totally rely on God for everything I have. From the very beginning life has been a gift.

Genesis 2:7 "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."

God even planted the garden to feed man:

Genesis 2:9 "And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

God has made provision for and given to us everything we need:

2 Peter 1:3 "as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,"

Philippians 4:19 "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

The gift I am most grateful for is the gift of His Son Jesus Christ.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

I am eternally grateful to God for the gift of eternal life.

1John 5:11-13 (Amplified Bible) . And this is that testimony (that evidence): God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who possesses the Son has that life; he who does not possess the Son of God does not have that life. I write this to you who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) the name of the Son of God [in the peculiar services and blessings conferred by Him on men], so that you may know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that you [already] have life, yes, eternal life.

Not only did God give us eternal life through Jesus Christ but He has given us the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:37-39 "Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

Jesus is active in the Church today because He gave Himself to minister through people. We understand through the original greek that this word "gift" is in reference to the person giving himself. So it is: Jesus the Apostle, Jesus the Prophet, Jesus the Evangelist, Jesus the Pastor and Jesus the Teacher that is the Gift in men that produces the gifting.

God then gives the men to the Church for the work of the ministry.

Ephesians 4:7-8 "But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."

Ephesians 4:11-12 "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

I am so thankful for all that God has given and is giving. There is a song we used to sing titled: "Without Him I Would be Nothing." Oh, how true!!!!!!

Thanks once again for your friendship, love, prayers and support.

Yours in Christ, ><>wayne<><