

THE GREATEST GIFTS YOU'LL EVER GET

Enjoying a Fear-Not Christmas
Rick Warren

Jesus: "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." John 3:16 (NIV)

"[God] who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" Romans 8:32 (ESV)

ALL OF GOD'S GIFTS ARE _____

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ACCEPT GOD'S GIFT OF JESUS?

4 smaller gifts are included . . .

1. GOD GIVES ME _____

"When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians 5:17 (TLB)

Jesus: "If you live by what I say . . . You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32 (GW)

"Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." Romans 12:2 (NLT)

2. GOD GIVES ME _____

"God has poured out his love into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit, who is God's gift to us." Romans 5:5 (GNT)

"For it is God who is producing in you both the desire and the ability to do what pleases him." Philippians 2:13 (ISV)

"God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)

3. GOD GIVES ME _____

"Because of his love he had already decided to adopt us through Jesus Christ." Ephesians 1:5 (GW)

"That family is the church of the living God, the support and foundation of the truth." 1 Timothy 3:15 (NCV)

"A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other."

1 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT)

"In Christ's family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. Among us you are all equal. That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ." Galatians 3:28 (MSG)

4. GOD GIVES ME _____

"God has reserved for his children the priceless gift of eternal life; it is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay."

1 Peter 1:4 (TLB)

"The free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 6:23 (NLT)

Jesus: "If you then, imperfect as you are, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in Heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" Matthew 7:11 (WNT)

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" 2 Corinthians 9:15 (NIV)

"It makes no difference who you are or where you're from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open." Acts 10:35 (MSG)

"I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love; and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high his love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it." Ephesians 3:17-19 (TLB)

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ENJOYING A FEAR-NOT CHRISTMAS

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At the first Christmas, angels said “Don’t be Afraid!” 4 times!:

- To Mary: Luke 1:30 (NLT)
- To Joseph: Matthew 1:20 (GW)
- To the Shepherds: Luke 2:10 (NLT)
- To Zechariah: Luke 1:13 (NLT)

WHAT FEARS DID PEOPLE FACE AT THE FIRST CHRISTMAS?

MARY FACED

“Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. ‘Don’t be afraid, Mary,’ the angel told her, ‘for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be . . . called the Son of the Most High. . . . His Kingdom will never end!’ Mary asked the angel, ‘But how can this happen?’” Luke 1:29-34 (NLT)

JOSEPH FACED

“This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. ‘Joseph, son of David,’ the angel said, ‘do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.’” Matthew 1:18-20 (NLT)

THE SHEPHERDS FACED

“In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock at night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood near them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. And so the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid.’” Luke 2:8-10 (NASB)

KING HEROD FACED

“Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.’ King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem.” Matthew 2:1-3 (NLT)

ZECHARIAH FACED

“While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. But the angel said, ‘Don’t be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer.’” Luke 1:11-13 (NLT)

HOW CAN I DEFEAT THE FEARS THAT HOLD ME BACK?

1.

“Mary said, ‘I am the Lord’s servant, and I am willing to do whatever he wants.’” Luke 1:38 (TLB)

“Surrender your heart to God, turn to him in prayer, and give up your sins. . . . Then you won’t be ashamed; you will be confident and fearless. Your troubles will go away like water beneath a bridge, and your darkest night will be brighter than noon. You will rest safe and secure, filled with hope and emptied of worry.” Job 11:13-18 (CEV)

2.

“Whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.” Romans 14:23 (ESV)

3.

“Mary responded, ‘Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. For the Mighty One is holy. . . . His mighty arm has done tremendous things! . . . He has filled the hungry with good things. . . . For he made this promise to our ancestors.’” Luke 1:46-55 (NLT)

Mary: Luke 1:46-55 (NLT)

Elizabeth: Luke 1: 42-45 (MSG)

The Angels: Luke 2:13-14 (GNT)

The Shepherds: Luke 2:20 (GNT)

Zechariah: Luke 1:67- 79 (GNT)

4.

“Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary . . . ‘You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said.’” Luke 1:42, 45 (NLT)

"When I am afraid, I will put my trust in you. I praise God for what he has promised. I trust in God, so why should I be afraid?" Psalm 56:3-4 (NLT)

THE GREATEST PROMISE:

"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." John 3:16 (NIV)

"For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying."

Hebrews 2:14-15 (NLT)

"The hopes and fears of all the years are met in THEE tonight!"
from "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

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THE MIRACLES OF CHRISTMAS

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4 MIRACLES:

- Who Came at Christmas
- How He Came
- Who He Came To
- Why He Came

1ST MIRACLE: _____

"Christ is the exact likeness of the unseen God. He existed before God made anything at all, and, in fact, Christ himself is the Creator who made everything in heaven and earth." Colossians 1:15-16 (TLB)

Jesus: *"We are the same—Father and Son. He is in me; I am in him."*
John 10:38 (MSG)

2ND MIRACLE: _____

"[Christ] gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born as a man and became like a servant. And when he was living as a man, he humbled himself."
Philippians 2:7-8 (NCV)

• JESUS _____ JUST LIKE US
"He . . . was born as a human being." Philippians 2:7 (NLT)

• JESUS _____ JUST LIKE US
"Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."
Luke 2:52 (NIV)

• JESUS _____ JUST LIKE US
"[He] understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, yet he did not sin." Hebrews 4:15 (NLT)

• JESUS _____ JUST LIKE US
"Since [Jesus] himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us." Hebrews 2:18 (NLT)

3RD MIRACLE: _____

"Jesus . . . told them, 'Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.'" Mark 2:17 (NLT)

JESUS CAME FOR EVERYONE

"Christ became a human being and lived here on earth among us." John 1:14 (TLB)

"[He] became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood." John 1:14 (MSG)

"[Mary] gave birth . . . wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn." Luke 2:7 (GNT)

"[The shepherds] ran to the village and found their way to Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger." Luke 2:16 (TLB)

4TH MIRACLE: _____

• JESUS CAME _____

"Jesus said. 'I was born for that purpose. And I came to bring truth to the world. All who love the truth are my followers.'" John 18:37 (TLB)

• JESUS CAME _____

"I came to give life—life in all its fullness." John 10:10 (NCV)

"This is how God showed his love to us: He sent his one and only Son into the world so that we could have life through him." 1 John 4:9 (NCV)

• JESUS CAME _____

"I have come to save the world and not to judge it." John 12:47 (TLB)

"All need to be made right with God by his grace, which is a free gift. They need to be made free from sin through Jesus Christ." Romans 3:24 (NCV)

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