



Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I recently heard the quote; “You don’t have to buy a gift, in order to give a gift.” And I think this is the message we all need to hear this holiday season when contemplating that perfect gift for those we love. It isn’t always about the money we spend, but instead the thought we put into the gift. Often people appreciate something that was created or personalized to the individual far more than something generic even if the person spent a bunch of money on it.

What each of us needs to remember is that we are a gift. Our presence in another person’s life is a gift from God, for we have been called by God to be a blessing in that person’s life. Each of us is a gift from God to those who we have touched, and that our presence and time is a gift that no iPod, video game, or television could equal. When we were born God provided our families with the gift of our life, and throughout the years our presence in the lives of those we have touched has been a gift to them just as all those people were a gift to us. Sometimes our encounters with others don’t seem like a gift, sometimes they can seem like a curse due to the negative feelings associated in those encounters, yet even in those times of negativity there is a hidden gift that can only be unwrapped at a later date when you are able to process and learn from that experience.

One of the greatest gifts I ever received (leaving out the easy ones such as my daughters’ and my wife’s presence in my life) was given to me on a warm evening in early June when I was twenty years old. My friend Ric sat with me on my porch and played the entire “A” side of Pink Floyd’s album Meddle (my all-time favorite Pink Floyd album) on his acoustic guitar. This happened the night before I was to leave for Alaska and it helped me release some of my anxiety regarding the long road trip ahead. To this day I remember that night and cherish that parting gift that Ric gave to me just before I set out on that wild journey.

I would like to invite each of you to now think of some of the most wonderful gifts you have received that did not involve the exchange of a physical object.

Peace and Blessings this Holiday Season
Pastor Robert Neubert