

**Christmas Gifts From God**  
**Pastor Joe Oakley**  
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Have you ever thought of what it would be like if God were buying your Christmas presents? I mean, it's one thing to get presents from friends and family – that's all good – but to get presents from God Himself would be pretty incredible.

Well – here's the thing – God has given Christmas presents to you already. And tonight we're going to look at these Christmas Gifts from God.

They're found in the Christmas story in Luke 2:10-14 when angels appeared to shepherds and said:

*"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"*

These verses show why Jesus came to earth. He came to bring us Christmas gifts from God.

If you think about it – Christ coming to earth was an amazing event.

Have you ever wanted to ask the Lord why He left heaven to come to earth?

Why did you leave the throne where you were surrounded by angels to come to a manger where you were surrounded by animals?

Why did you leave heaven with its streets of gold to come to earth with its dusty streets?

Why did you leave heaven where there is no pain and no tears to become a man of sorrows acquainted with grief?

Why did the King of Kings and Lord of Lords have to become a baby?

Jesus came to earth to bring us Christmas presents from God. He came to bring us peace, love and great joy. Everybody on this planet wants those three things and everybody seeks them.

Don't you want to have peace in the midst of a storm?

Don't you want to have love in the midst of all the hate?

Don't you want to have joy in the midst of all the sadness and depression?

What many people don't realize is that peace, joy and love are byproducts of a relationship with Jesus Christ.

They're looking for love in all the wrong places – when all along it is God's gift of a Savior that results in us being able to have peace, joy and love.

Those three things are the Christmas gifts from God.

### **1- Through Jesus, God gives us the gift of peace**

Jesus came to bring peace on earth. John 14:27 says:

*Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

Peace that Jesus gives is not the absence of trouble, but it's the confidence that He is with you always.

Christmas is supposed to be a celebration. It's supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year. Yet many people are not feeling blessed. They're feeling stressed, oppressed and depressed. And on top of that – they have no money to invest! They feel so worn out that they want to walk out. They feel so burnt out that they want to back out. They've been so chewed out, counted out, and crowded out that they just want to check out.

I understand all of this, but it shows you how far we've come from what Christmas should be. We miss the point that God wants to give us the gift of peace regardless of our circumstances or problems. How do we receive that peace? By realizing Jesus is Emmanuel, which means "God with us."

Jesus wants to bring peace into your life. But peace in life starts with having peace with God. And peace with God only comes through Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1 says:

*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Some of you are in storms that seem like they'll never end and I'm here to tell you there is no peace without the Prince of Peace.

I urge you to accept God's Christmas present of peace by accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

### **2- Through Jesus, God gives us the gift of Joy**

We get this from the Christmas story in Luke 2:10-11.

*Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."*

Notice that Christmas is a celebration of good news. Not just news, but good news.

Christmas is a time for great joy. Not just joy, but great joy.

Christmas is a time for people. Not just some people, but all people.

Christmas is about good news of great joy for all people!

It doesn't matter who you are, where you're from, where you've been or what you've done – Christmas is good news of great joy for you!

Unfortunately, most people have very little of the joy what Jesus came to earth to give us. Why is that? Because they look for joy everywhere except for where it's really found.

They look for it in money and don't find it.

They look for it in power and don't find it.

They look for it in drugs and alcohol and don't find it.

They look for it in fame and don't find it.

The rich and famous are some of the most miserable people on earth. Watch the news – they are always getting arrested for drunkenness or drugs. Why? They're miserable. They have no joy. People with no joy will try to find a substitute. But where is real joy found? The answer is simple: in Christ alone. Isaiah 12:2-3 says

*Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*

In other words, salvation leads to joy. Jesus Christ came to save us from our sin. When He enters into our heart, He removes our sin and our guilt and our shame and that results in joy - mega joy.

So many people say they believe in Jesus – but He's only someone who's in their life when they need Him. Like a book on a shelf – it's there when you need it but doesn't bother you the rest of the time. But Jesus did not come to sit on a shelf. He came to take over. He came to be Lord and King.

The angels said *Unto you is born this day a Savior who is Christ the Lord!*

Joy comes when we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

When you look at the story of Christ you will find Him bringing joy to people on earth. He brought joy when he healed people.

He brought joy when he set people free.

He brought joy when he taught people the truth.

And guess what? Jesus is still bringing joy into the lives of people today.

He is still healing the sick, setting the captives free and Jesus is still performing miracles.

Jesus came to bring joy to your world! If you are looking for joy in your life, you will find it in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

As the words to Joy to the World say: “Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room.”

Jesus came to bring joy to your world!

You will find it when you make room for Him in your life.

The more room you make for God in your life – the more joy you will have!

### **3- Through Jesus, God gives us the gift of Love**

The Bible says God is love. It doesn't say He has love. It says He *is* love. It is His nature. *God is love.*

We who live our lives giving and receiving conditional love have very little understanding of God's kind of love. God's love is unconditional and giving and forgiving.

The most famous verse in the Bible, John 3:16, says:

*God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

That's the good news. God so loved the world. That's why He sent Jesus. Christmas is God saying to you, “I love you.”

Do you realize how much you are worth to God? How do you know how much something is worth? By how much someone is willing to pay for it. 1 Peter 1:18-19 tells us what God paid for us.

*God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.*

God ransomed you – bought you – with a price – the blood of Jesus. That price is greater than any price ever paid for anything in the history of the world! That's why we celebrate the birth of Jesus! Because God took the initiative and has done everything possible so that you can get to know Him. Even coming to earth Himself. Romans 5:9 & 11 says:

*Since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, He will certainly save us from God's condemnation. So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.*

That is a mind-blowing verse.

That the creator of the universe would even care about us is amazing. But the fact that He wants us to be His friends is mind boggling. But He does. He made you to love you, to bring you into His family and to be His friend forever.

This is very important – your life depends on this.  
The Bible makes it very, very clear – God loves you.  
To make it even clearer, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ to earth as a human.  
This is called the Incarnation. God became flesh.  
That’s what we celebrate on Christmas.

The problem with many people is that they just see Jesus as a baby.  
But Jesus did not stay a baby in a manger.  
He became a man who paid the price for every sin we would ever commit.

He did that by dying on a cross and He proved it was true by coming back to life!  
This is good news! Have you made room for Jesus in your heart?

Jesus Christ is God’s Christmas gift to us. Yet, some of us have gone Christmas after Christmas and never opened the biggest gift under the tree – the gift of salvation.

Not only does God want to give you gifts, He wants to make the most amazing exchange of gifts you could ever imagine.

You might think, what can I give to God? Well, I’ll tell you. Christmas is Jesus Christ saying to you:

Give me your sin and I’ll give you salvation.  
Give me your empty heart and I’ll give you meaning and purpose.  
Give me your worry and I’ll give you peace.  
Give me your fear and I’ll give you faith.  
Give me your addiction and I’ll give you freedom.  
Give me your depression and I’ll give you joy.  
Give me your discouragement and I’ll give you hope.  
Give me your guilt and condemnation and I’ll give you forgiveness.

Don’t miss the purpose of Christmas.  
Jesus is the reason for the season, but in some circles you hear more about Santa Claus or something else.

But Christmas is not about what’s under the tree.  
It’s about the man who hung on the tree.

It’s not about having a vacation. It’s about having salvation.

It’s not about Jingle Bells – it’s about the angels’ Noels.

It’s not about Father Christmas – it’s about Father God.

Christmas is not about Jack Frost – it's about Jesus saving the lost!

It's not about Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer – it's about Jesus and His red-stained cross.

It's not about the Grinch who Stole Christmas – it's about the Christ who gave Christmas.

It's not about Frosty the Snowman – it's about Jesus making you a new man.

Don't miss the greatest gift you can ever receive.

In history's greatest miracle, God became a human being.

The King of King and the Lord of Lords chose birth in a stable and death on a cross so He could give us gifts from God.

That's why we celebrate Christmas: Jesus came to earth to die for our sins and give us His gift of eternal life and relationship with God.

And as a result of receiving Jesus – you receive peace, joy and love!

Have you ever received Jesus as your Savior and Lord? Romans 10:9 says:

*If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*