

Give The Gift That Keeps On Giving

by Dee Bowman

That's a trite expression, albeit a true one. It makes sense to give a gift that lasts. Gifts that don't keep giving are superficial, impermanent. Gifts that last say something special about both the giver and the recipient. They suggest that there was considerable thought which went into the giving. More often than not, if a gift keeps on giving it shows that the giver genuinely cares for the recipient.

May I suggest some gifts that keep on giving? Please be advised, they are all gifts that anyone can give—not matter who they are, rich or poor.

Be kind. Kindness is a gift, one not given much today, but a great one nonetheless. Kindness is a gift that procreates itself. One kind deed may generate dozens of similar acts before it wears itself out, or someone breaks the chain. It keeps on giving because there are so many different ways to give it. It costs nothing and yet it's worth a lot. If "brotherly kindness" is "in you and abounds," it brings forth wonderful fruit (II Pet. 1:8). Kindness is a great gift—one that keeps on giving.

Say something good. "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver" (Prov. 25:11). Words paint beautiful pictures, most of the time moving pictures. Good words travel fast; they tend to generate more good words as they move along. Say something good to someone early in the morning and it will likely move around all day. "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life," Solomon said (Prov. 15:4). Remember, all that good fruit started with just one little seed. Did you ever notice that when you compliment someone, they can't wait to return the favor? See? Kind words just keep on giving.

Be a friend. A friend is a gift that never stops giving. Want to give a great gift? Be a friend. Who can calculate the value of a friend, one that "loveth at all times" (Prov. 12:17), one that is always there, day after day, through all kinds of weather? Good friendships grow over time; they keep on giving. A good friend is a gift from God. And, "what a friend we have in Jesus!" He is at once the Gift and the Giver; and He never stops giving the gift.

Give yourself a gift. Read more Bible. "The entrance of thy words giveth light, it giveth understanding to the simple" (Psalm 119:130). Light and understanding are continuous gifts that come from the word of God. You can't exhaust them. The more light you get, the better you see. The more understanding you get, the better you do. Bible reading enhances every relationship in your life. If you read the Bible you will be a better parent, a better teenager, a better worker, a better grandparent or friend. You'll even be a better enemy. Bible reading gives, and gives, and gives, all the days of your life.

But we've not yet discussed the gift of all gifts. There is a gift you can give that keeps on

giving past this life and all the way into eternity. It is a gift that never quits giving—never. Think about that—never. It's the gift of salvation.

You want to give the gift of gifts? Bring someone to Jesus. Bring them to know the Lord. Talk about a gift that keeps on giving!

In John 1:41, we are told that Andrew first found Peter and brought him to Jesus, saying, "We have found the Messiah! Look at all the good that came from Andrews' bringing Peter to Jesus. Thousands and thousands of people were saved; and are still being saved. And it all began with that simple gift Andrew gave his brother and the gift of "the keys to the kingdom" given him later by the Lord. You can give that same gift of salvation to someone.

You can give no greater gift than to bring someone to Jesus. You don't know what may come of it. It could be the reason for many persons being saved. It's the gift with eternal consequences. Bring someone to Jesus and you give them the most precious gift of all. Oh, Gift of all Gifts! It just keeps on giving.