



# Spirit of Grace

Herald

THE MINISTRY OF DENNIS  
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## Christmas Presents

I have always loved Christmas, but for different reasons, depending upon my age and state of mind. As a boy Christmas was all about presents, specifically the presents people would give me. Although I was always asked, "What do you want for Christmas?" I never knew for sure whether the item requested would actually be found wrapped in bright paper under our tree on Christmas morning. Whether it was a Jon Gnagy "Learn to Draw Kit," a BB gun, or a toy pistol which would render hundreds of hours of service as I pretended to be Roy Rogers or the Lone Ranger, I could hardly wait for Christmas morning to open my treasures and spend the rest of the day playing with them.

As I got older the presents took on a different nature. Childish toys turned into stereos and gadgets considered high-tech for the times (as high-tech as you could get in the late sixties and early seventies). But still presents played a major role in the holiday, as far as I was concerned. The decorations were nice, the Christmas carols were pleasant, the family get-togethers were OK, but the presents were the really big deal. And then, at the age of nineteen I put my trust in Jesus Christ and my life was radically changed. Suddenly the religious aspect of the holiday took on a new and profound meaning for me. I can still remember thinking, "This is my first Christ-

mas as a Christian," and being awed at what a difference it made.

As I grew in Christ I eventually realized that presents do play a major role in Christmas – but not the presents we give to one another. It is about far superior presents, the ones give us by our gracious God and His Son Jesus. The ultimate Christmas present is Jesus Himself. The Bible tells us that God so loved the world He *gave* His only begotten Son... We didn't earn Jesus; He wasn't our wages for behaving ourselves or for all the hard work we did for God. He was a gift – undeserved and unearned. He came into the world, but not for men and women on God's *nice* list. Jesus was offered to the entire population of the earth, every one of which had earned a rightful place on the *naughty* list. Or to put it more Biblically: **"God looks down from heaven upon the**



**children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. Every one of them has turned aside; they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one"** (Psalm 53:2,3).

Still Christ came, sent by God and willingly agreeing to a plan of redemption that would involve a horrible death hanging on a cross by nails through His hands and feet. Having been raised from the dead He now comes into the hearts of those who receive Him by faith. And as He enters, He brings priceless gifts to one and all:

**The Gift of the forgiveness of sins** – Here is a gift every one of us desperately needs, but far too many people don't even

realize it. To them forgiveness is an antiquated term no longer relevant to modern men and women. We may need a little therapy, perhaps a few weeks in rehab – but forgiveness – how thoroughly 1800's! Yet God doesn't see it that way. Jesus told His disciples, "Repentance and the remission of sins" must be preached in His name to all nations.

**The Gift of the Holy Spirit** – Christianity is far more than merely attempting to be good and please God. To be a Christian is to be indwelt by God, and to be motivated by the passionate, consuming, ever-growing desire for holiness that springs from our amazing Comforter and Enabler, the Holy Spirit. "Having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise..."

# Christmas Presents

**The Gift of Eternal Life** – Christ can do for us what no doctor, no medicine, no health and nutrition book can ever do. He can bestow upon us a gift that will enable us to live forever in a perpetual state of perfect health, righteousness, peace, and joy. Men have eagerly searched for a *Fountain of Youth*, but it will never be found in any particular geographical location. Jesus is that Fountain, who grants the grace of eternal life to all who will call upon Him. "The wages of sin is death, but **the gift of God** is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

So you see, Christmas really is all about presents. And as one might expect, God's presents are the best of all!

## DENNIS & BENEDICTA IN YOUR CHURCH



As we go into the new year, please keep in mind that Dennis and Benedicta do not limit their ministry to Africa and Asia. They are also available to minister in U. S. churches. They come on a "love offering" basis, and can be a great blessing to your church.

Here is a great way you can support our overseas outreach while enjoying Dennis & Benedicta's ministry in your community. Dennis teaches series on topics such as: *The Abiding Life, Knowing the Holy Spirit, The Ways of God, The Return of Jesus, The Tough Questions of the Bible, and How To Receive Spiritual Breakthroughs*. Benedicta shares from

her amazing life testimonies words of encouragement and hope. Call or email SOGM and schedule their ministry in your church in 2015.

## SHARE THE WORD



In our desire to reach as many as possible with the word of God, we are offering a special service to those of you eager to share the Word with others. When you are especially blessed by one of Dennis' teachings, either in pamphlet form or from the Internet, there is a simple way to share it with others. You can email us and request any of his full length devo articles in pdf form. We will email you the pdf file, fully formatted in pamphlet form, and you can transfer it to a flash drive, take it to a nearby "copy and print center" (such as at Staples or Office Depot) and they will print it on legal sized paper. There is very little cost for this (perhaps 20 cents per copy) and you can make as many or as few as you like. So feel free to request any of Dennis' articles and begin to share the Word!



## Become a Friend in 2015!

As we approach the start of a new year, would you consider becoming a regular friend and supporter of Spirit of Grace Ministries? Our ministry can only be sustained as God moves on the hearts of tender-hearted Christians to stand with us. Please pray about joining hands with us to help us feed Christ's sheep, equip His servants, and call sinners unto Him.

Friends of Grace are our supporters who contribute a minimum of \$25 per month. **When you give any gift of \$300 or more you are automatically placed on our "Friends" list for one year.** Not only will you be blessed by the teachings we will regularly send you, but more importantly, you will be helping us spread the word of the Lord to the nations! If this teaching ministry has been a blessing to you, please pray about regularly supporting SOGM as a Friend of Grace.