

The Spirit Of Christmas

P4 - Christmas Eve AM Message

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Unwrapping Gifts

JOHN 1:12-13

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

God's Gift to mankind is Sonship. God gave His Son Jesus to the world to reap a harvest of children. **ROMANS 8:29**, the "firstborn of many" His life was to be a pattern for all the sons and daughters. I want to set the ideal before us today so we have the vision of God for our lives. **PHILIPPIANS 3:14**. *Three key elements to the Life of Jesus Christ. These three things are the greatest gifts God has given to His children. "God's gift to us is our potential, our gift to God is how we use it."*

ROMANS 8:29

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

PHILIPPIANS 3:14

I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

NUMBER 1. Knowledge

Jesus was a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes. **LUKE 2:7**, He was God's gift to the world, he didn't stay in the Manger, but unwrapped his life to fulfill His purpose and destiny. We see how this gift was unwrapped as he matured, He grew in knowledge, (there is a message here for parents. how important it is to get the knowledge of God into your children at a young age, our children's program is set for this purpose. If children don't develop an interest for God's Word they will develop interests elsewhere to consume their thoughts. Bible education should be at least equally important to other forms of education for our children. Jesus first twelve years was a time of getting knowledge of God's Word.

LUKE 2:7

And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

A. Knowledge of God can be learned early in life.

DEUTERONOMY 6:1-9

"Now *this is* the commandment, *and these are* the statutes and judgments which the Lord your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe *them* in the land which you are crossing over to possess, ² that you may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. ³ Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe *it*, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you—'a land flowing with milk and honey.'⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord *is* one!⁵ ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. ⁶ "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

B. Spiritual knowledge can be understood by children.

PROVERBS 4:1-4

Hear, *my children*, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding; ² For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law. ³ When I was my father's son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother, ⁴ He also taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live.

C. Parents are to teach their children God's Word. That includes the resource God has provided by the dedicated children workers in the local church.

D. The first years of your new life in Christ should follow this pattern of getting knowledge as fast as possible. **JOSHUA 1:8** accelerate learning.

JOSHUA 1:8

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

NUMBER 2. Wisdom

After knowledge comes wisdom, using knowledge correctly to help ourselves and others.

LUKE 2:50-52 - the next 18 years was a time to grow in wisdom. Wisdom takes longer because it involves life's experience and proper relationships **PROVERBS 13:20**. These relationships include relatives that are also wise people, teachers that influence our kids views of reality. Knowledge is "what" and wisdom is "how and when."

LUKE 2:50-52

But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them. ⁵¹ Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

PROVERBS 13:20

He who walks with wise *men* will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed.

A. Our children need wise company thru this next phase.

ACTS 4:13

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

B. Positive peer influence or negative peer influence.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:33

Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

C. Prayer produces wisdom. **JAMES 1:5** because prayer is an act of humility, I "need."

JAMES 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

- D. Knowledge and wisdom combined make a person ready for life. **PROVERBS 3:13-20** (power twins) Maturity involves a combination of the two.

PROVERBS 3:13-20

Happy *is* the man *who* finds wisdom, And the man *who* gains understanding;
¹⁴For her proceeds *are* better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. ¹⁵She *is* more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. ¹⁶Length of days *is* in her right hand, In her left hand riches and honor. ¹⁷Her ways *are* ways of pleasantness, And all her paths *are* peace. ¹⁸She *is* a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy *are all* who retain her. ¹⁹The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens; ²⁰By His knowledge the depths were broken up, And clouds drop down the dew.

- E. Again, another parallel to the child of God who should advance in wisdom next.

1 PETER 5:5-6

Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." ⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

- F. Young believers with a calling need not be in a hurry, learn wisdom from elders.

NUMBER 3. Power. "anointing within at new birth, anointing upon for service"

LUKE 4:18

"The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to *the* poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to *the* captives And recovery of sight to *the* blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

As a spiritual adult, Jesus...

- A. Knew His **Identity**, **LUKE 3:22** Son of God, Jesus used the wisdom and knowledge to defeat Satan who came immediately to stop Him. God knows you will need the knowledge and wisdom to overcome the opposition to your destiny and purpose.

LUKE 3:22

And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

- B. Knew His **purpose**, Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because....to **proclaim** God's message.
- C. Knew His **message**, - ***Good News***. Spiritual Riches, Healing, Freedom, Vision, Favor.

CONCLUSION

Finish the work and glorify God.

JOHN 17:4

I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.