

Recently a 5-year-old girl asked this Christmas related question, "Why isn't God in the manger if he is Jesus' father?" Wow, you have to love the issues kids raise and the way little ones state them. The answer I shared stemmed from Galatians 4:4-7. God the Father was there, but there are three things we have to know about His presence. First, we don't see the Father, because He is "spirit" and is therefore invisible. Second, the Father was working behind the scenes (again, out of sight) to make everything happen at the manger; and not just at Jesus' birth, but all throughout Jesus' life, including His death, resurrection, and return back into Heaven. By the way, when Jesus comes back to Earth again, like the Bible says He will, the Father will make that happen too. Third, there are some absolutely astonishing gifts that the Father gives to every person who becomes a follower of Jesus. I like to refer to them as *Christmas Gifts From Daddy*. As we prep for Christmas 2023, let's unwrap these special presents to us from God the Father.

1. (v.4) The Father sent Jesus at...

2. (v.4) The Father actually gave us...

3. (v.4) The Father provided Jesus with...

4. (v.4) The Father had Jesus be born...

5. (v.5) The Father empowered Jesus to...

6. (v.5) The Father uses Jesus to bring us...

7. (v.6) The Father places His...

8. (v.6) The Father relates to us as...

9. (v.7) The Father has made us to be...