

The Greatest Present Is His Presence

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The greatest present we could ever receive is the gift of His presence—the presence of God with us. Long before the first Christmas night, the prophet foretold this gift, speaking of the Christ and declaring that His name would be called Emmanuel, which means God with us.

Humanity's separation from God through sin created the need for reconciliation. That separation was not something man could repair on his own. Scripture tells us that while we were still helpless, Christ died for us. Reconciliation did not begin with humanity reaching for God—it began with God reaching for us. Out of pure love, God sent His Son so that you, I, and all mankind could be restored to Him.

On that first Christmas night, heaven opened in a glorious display. Angels appeared, and an angelic choir announced joy to the world, proclaiming peace on earth and goodwill toward men. The peace they declared was peace with God, now offered to humanity through His Son, Jesus Christ. And the goodwill toward men spoke of God's will and desire—that we would be reconciled to Him and live in fellowship with Him through the indwelling presence of His Holy Spirit.

This is the greatest gift—the greatest present—anyone could ever receive.

And this gift is offered freely to all, to whosoever will. For those who have received His presence, there is no greater joy than knowing Him and walking with Him.

Today, we abide with Him by faith. He walks with us. He lives within us. He loves us, guides us, protects us, delivers us, and sustains us. Yet, our greatest hope reaches even beyond this life. The most wondrous part of this gift is that it extends into eternity.

A day is coming when God will dwell with His people in fullness. He will be our God, and we will dwell with Him forevermore. This is our living hope. And that, my friend, truly is joy to the world—for the Lord has come and is coming again!

He has come into my life, and He desires to come into yours. He came so that He might be with us, and that His presence would remain with us forever. This is why God sent His Son.

This is what we celebrate at Christmas. The present of His presence.

Receive Him today. Receive this gift from God. Welcome His presence into your life and know His joy—the joy He offers to the world, a joy filled with living hope and eternal glory.

Praise be to God. Joy to the world.