

December 28

Philippians 2:6-7 (NIV) ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV) ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

As we continue to enjoy this Christmas season, these passages caught my attention. I too often rush through the truth without giving the Holy Spirit time to speak to me through them. I cannot fathom the depth behind the truth that Jesus, God's only Son, chose to come to us in the flesh. He gave up His glory, His incorruptible nature, and His position to do so. He chose to become a vulnerable child born into squalid conditions into a family that had to flee from one place to another. He gave up His riches to become poor like us. He gave up His place in heaven to walk among us even though we would reject, humiliate, and crucify Him. He chose to suffer all the pain of this life for us. That level of love is very difficult to imagine, but it is true.

That is the part of Christmas that we celebrate every year, giving thanks to our Lord for His sacrifice. However, there is more to this amazing story. In giving up His nature as God, Jesus made a way for that "process" to be reversed in our lives. Because He became poor, we became rich in that we have been set free from the law and because all His promises are ours. Because He came from heaven to earth, we can leave this earth and enter God's throne room. Because He gave up His position, we gained access to His Kingdom where we are considered great. He sacrificed, and we benefitted. He suffered while we live. He died so we could live. The truth that brought Jesus to this earth has been reversed for any person who humbles him or herself, repents, and accepts Him. We live an abundant life because He gave up His life. That is the gift He gave us. Now, what are we going to do with that gift?