

Main Idea

As we encounter the busyness and sometimes craziness of the holiday season, we often forget the precious gifts God has given us. While this is a season for holiday festivities, it is also a season to Remember God's Gifts for us from Psalm 103:1-5.

1. Forgiveness

- 1John 1:9 – God forgives, purifies and cleans the slate of our sin.
- Is there anything or any sin I need to confess?
- What would stop me from confessing and seeking forgiveness from God or others?
- At the same time, being God has forgiven us, what would stop me from forgiving others who have offended me?

2. Healing

- The passage says God heals us of from all our diseases, but we don't always experience that.
- The story of Major League Baseball player, Dave Dravecky, who lost his throwing arm to cancer "God has not promised to exempt believers from hardship and affliction, but he has pledged to redeem all of their pain and suffering and to reward their faithful endurance with pleasure at his right hand forever."
- What are your thoughts on that quote and how do you process unanswered prayers for healing?

3. Redemption

- Redemption: gaining or regaining possession of something in exchange for payment of a debt.
- In our case, it is Jesus making the entire payment so we can regain relationship with God.
- Has your understanding of this freed you from "working for God" and resting in his gift to us?

4. Crowns

- God crowns us with love and compassion – it is his love and compassion gifted onto us.
- It is not a temporary crown but rather a permanent crown – an eternal, spiritual crown.
- How does it sit with you to know God looks at you as one of his princes or princesses?

5. Satisfaction

- God satisfies every one of my needs and fills my life with good things.
- This should cause me to experience a renewal of my faith that allows me to soar.
- Warning: watch out for "zones of influence" that lead to discontentment and rob us of soaring.
- "One must wait until the evening to understand how splendid the days has been" (Will Rogers).
- Do you feel satisfied by God and if not, can you identify any zones of influence getting in the way of that satisfaction?