

# The Faith Script

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**“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” James 1:17 (KJV)**

[Prayer Wall](#)

## Endless Gifts

When I was a child, I could not wait until Christmas morning. My brother and I would get up early on Christmas morning after only a few hours of sleep (probably an over estimation). We proceeded to wake our parents up to see what Santa had left us. Hurrying out to the Christmas tree in our living room we found a room filled with presents and stockings that seemed so full they often had to be placed on the floor below the fireplace. We then would open the presents and began playing with the latest toys we received. Next, we couldn't wait until all of our relatives came later in the day for Christmas dinner, and of course brought more presents to open. The excitement on our faces as we unwrapped each present was quite evident. It now comes full circle for many of us as we relive the same with our own children on Christmas morning, including the sleep deprivation!

Let us reflect on the greatest gift that we could ever imagine during this Christmas season—the gift of Jesus Christ. An undeserved gift is given to us from a Father who loves us more than we could ever imagine. This sounds unbelievable doesn't it, but it is true. Let's remember the story as told in Luke 2: 4-14 (ASV): *And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David; to enroll himself with Mary, who was betrothed to him, being great with child. And it came to pass, while they were there, the days were fulfilled that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son; and she wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds in the same country abiding in the field, and keeping watch by night over their flock. And an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people: for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this is the sign unto you: Ye shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased.* The gift doesn't end there.

I recently read the story of Abraham and Isaac as told in Genesis 22:1-19 in our 7<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school class. This is the story of how God tested Abraham's faith by commanding him to sacrifice his long-awaited son of the promise, Isaac, on an altar. I asked the 7<sup>th</sup> graders about the sacrifice and how they felt about this. This was incredibly difficult to understand for 12 year olds and parents as well. I then asked the children about God sacrificing his son Jesus for us on the cross—another incredible gift for us as a sacrifice to take the place for our sins. The kids were silent for a moment as they tried to comprehend this truth. It was incredible to see the “light bulbs” come on as the children began to understand and realize the gravity of what God did. We were all in awe of this gift from our Father.

It gets even better according to Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4: *For I delivered unto you first of all that which also I received: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried; and that he hath been raised on the third day according to the scriptures.* We now have

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eternal life with our Father as a result of this gift. This gift is for everyone, if we accept and believe in Jesus Christ: *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth him that sent me, hath eternal life, and cometh not into judgment, but hath passed out of death into life* John 5:24. There are so many other gifts from our Father and the story doesn't end here, but continues into eternity.

The Bible and our lives are filled with examples of endless gifts from our Father. CPFI is truly an example of a gift to us given by God. The mission of CPFI is to serve Christ and the world through pharmacy. There are many ways we can support CPFI, in thanks and praise to God for this gift, such as giving of our time or finances, attending the CPFI Annual Conference, serving on a committee, going on a mission trip, recruiting a new member, and encouraging our colleagues. What we may find in the process of this service is our lives being a blessing beyond measure and we get much more in return, than we ever gave—another example of a gift from God.

As Christmas approaches, let's give thanks to God for these endless gifts, even though we do not deserve them. We have a Father who cares for us and loves us. It is comforting to know that Jesus is with us now and forever. As Jesus tells us in Matthew 28:20 (ASV): *And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.* There is no greater gift than the gift of Jesus Christ. Thank you Father.

Mark S. Johnson, Pharm.D., BCPS  
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