

Its All About Thanks-Giving

There's something about a box wrapped with pretty paper and tied with a beautiful ribbon that gets our attention. Whether it's Christmas, our birthday or an anniversary, most of us delight in receiving gifts. Being a loving father, God likes to bring the pleasure of receiving gifts to us. His gifts are the expensive, flashy kind! Take each sunrise and sunset we experience in our lifetime. Looking around us at all of creation, we're reminded that to see, hear, touch, and taste all that we do is a magnificent present. We look at our husbands, children, and friends and realize that they are gifts from God as well. He showers us with things we need.

One example of this grander-than-life giving is found in II Peter 1:3: *"We have everything we need to live a life that pleases God. It was all given to us by God's own power, when we learned that He had invited us to share in His wonderful goodness."* This scripture doesn't say "here's a little of what you need to live the Christian life, now go out and develop the rest of your resources." Instead, this promise makes it clear that all we need for spiritual vitality and godly living comes through our knowledge of Christ. When we know Christ intimately, He is the source of spiritual power and growth. Sounds just like Christmas morning to me!

"Lord, we want to thank you for every good gift that we have in our lives. You have richly blessed us. Thank you that through your grace we can become like you. The life you provide for us is richer and more dynamic than any we could imagine. We are grateful for your promises. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

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(Material adapted from the Year One Prayer Partner's Guide)