

UNOPENED GIFTS FROM GOD'S WORD

By Ron and Beth Wells

During the Christmas season, we get caught up in the activity of buying gifts and planning parties. We're motivated to buy gifts for many reasons, and the best reason is to show our love and appreciation for others. This year, Beth and I feel impressed to give our friends and supporters "gifts" that need to be unwrapped and opened to be useful.

The only gifts that will make a difference in our lives and our eternity are those found in the Word of God and in the Person of Jesus Christ.

We encourage you to open these precious gifts from God's Word and share them with your family and friends!

GIFT 1: HOW TO SURVIVE...THEN THRIVE GOING THROUGH GRIEF

Many people have a hard time during the holidays because their loved ones are no longer with them. Psalm 23 deals with the heartache of grief and inspires us to find the strength to not only survive it but also to thrive in the midst of it. Read the following psalm, study the insights below and be inspired by the quotes from some of our favorite authors.

Psalm 23

A psalm of David.

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup

overflows.

⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Insights from God's Word:

- **Vs. 1** – There is no time that hurting sheep have an absentee God.
- **Vs. 2** – Know that physical rest allows joy to come in the morning.
- **Vs. 3** – There is encouragement for the sheep to move upward proactively toward God instead of reactively to the losses of the past.
- **Vs. 4** – Stay focused on the future that our Sovereign God has planned.
- **Vs. 5** – We must practice the discipline of counting our blessings instead of allowing Satan to steal our joy.
- **Vs. 6** – Hold on to God's promises that are Eternal. (Don't lose hope!)

From Max Lucado

Counseling can comfort you in the storm, but you need a Sovereign God who can still the storm.

Friends can hold you at your deathbed, but you need a God who has defeated the grave.

Philosophy can debate the meaning of life, but you need a Lord who can declare to you personally the purpose of your life.

From Chuck Swindoll

We are more than conquerors, rather than helpless victims, when it comes to dealing with Satan and his demons.

Continued on next page

From Roy Lessin

He has a life for you to live, a plan for you to follow and a purpose for you to fulfill. He has allowed you to be here, at this time in history, to be His watchman to this generation.

Romans 8:37

“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”

GIFT 2: HOW TO TRUST GOD

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.

God has a precious gift for His children who choose to trust Him in time of need. This is the choice believers have to make before they receive the gift. We have to

express confidence and trust in His power. This kind of trust positions us to receive God's gift. We have to trust totally and continually acknowledge Him in everything we do. The lyrics of this wonderful old hymn capture the essence of the promise in Scripture.

*What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*Leaning, leaning
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

From A. W. Tozer

“God constantly encourages us to trust him in the dark. It is heartening to learn how many of God's mighty deeds were done in secret, away from the prying eyes of men or angels. It is as if God were saying, ‘What I am is all that need matter to you, for there lie your hope and your peace. I will do what I will do, and it will all come to light at last, but how I do it is my secret. Trust me, and be not afraid.’ With the goodness of God to desire our highest welfare, the wisdom of God to plan it and the power of God to achieve it, what do we lack? Surely we are the most favored of all creatures.”

Proverbs 3: 23-26

- 23 Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble.
24 When you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.
25 Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked,
26 for the LORD will be at your side and will keep your foot from being snared.

Insights from God's Word:

- **Vs. 23** – God promises His truth will give us safety and confidence in every step we take.
- **Vs. 24** – God will give us safe and sweet sleep.
- **Vs. 25** – Live fearlessly when the storms of life, that always come, overtake suddenly.
- **Vs 26** – When we trust God totally, we can be totally confident in His love.

Have you considered the value of the gifts in these verses? What in your life can surpass the glorious assurances of God's invitation to trust Him completely?

YOUNG MAN DIES SHARING THE GOSPEL & SHOWING CHRIST'S LOVE TO TRIBE

I was told over the Thanksgiving weekend that the young American missionary who was killed by the isolated Sentinelese tribe off the coast of India in November was a good friend of my granddaughter's fiancé. As I am writing this, Indian authorities are trying to recover the body of 26-year-old John Allen Chau.

Before he left the boat for the last time to reach the Sentinelese, Chau wrote a note to his family that read: “You guys might think I'm crazy

in all this, but I think it's worthwhile to declare Jesus to these people.” Then he added: “Please do not be angry at them or at God if I get killed—rather please live your lives in obedience to whatever He has called you to, and I will see you again when you pass through the veil.”

The Bible reminds us, “There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love” 1 John 4:18.

RON & BETH'S READING RECOMMENDATIONS



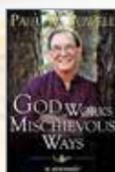
Passion & Purity, Learning to Bring Your Love Life Under Christ's Control by Elisabeth Elliott – In her classic book, Elisabeth candidly shares her love story with Jim Elliot through letters, diary entries, and memories. She is honest about the temptations, difficulties, victories, and sacrifices of two young people whose commitment to Christ took priority over their love for each other.



Choose Joy: Because Happiness Is Not Enough by Kay Warren – With compassion and wisdom, she shows readers—even those who live with discouragement and depression—that true joy is deeper, richer, and more accessible than they might think. Perfect for small groups or individual reading.



Every Day for Every Man: 365 Readings for Those Engaged in the Battle by Stephen Arterburn, Fred Stoeker, Kenny Luck – With 365 power-packed readings, this book equips you with the weapons and armor you need to fight temptation each day—and emerge victorious.



God Works in Mischievous Ways, a Memoir by Paul W. Powell – Paul pastored one of the largest churches in the country and was the dean of Truett Theological Seminary. He shares behind-the-scenes stories—from a lifelong fear of public speaking to trial and error preaching experiences as a young man—all while revealing the challenges and blessings of a lifetime of leadership.

Celebrating God's Work in 2018

Looking back, we see God was at work in many ways in 2018. We are so thankful for how He uses Centrepont to minister to families and individuals locally and around the world.

- Jan 14-15 **Speaker, Circle the Wagons,**
Heritage Trails Cowboy Church, Ben Wheeler, TX
- Jan 26-27 **Speaker for Pastor and Wives Conference,**
Princeton, West Virginia
- Feb 16-17 **Speaker, Friendly Baptist Church Men's Ranch Retreat**
Wells, TX
- Apr 7-14 **Family Outreach & Evangelism**
Costa Rica
- Apr 28-29 **Speaker, Men's Rally & Family Conference,**
New Hope Baptist Church, Lone Oak, Texas
- June 10 **Southern Baptist Convention (pastor's meeting)**
- July 11-18 **Annual Salmon Frenzy Mission**
Kenai River, Alaska
- Oct 8-11 **Hosting Sham Mohan, Youth for Christ Director,**
India & meeting with YWAM Leadership,
Speaker, BSM at Texas A&M University
- Oct 17 **Speaker, Jasper Ventures,**
Troup, TX
- Oct 31-Nov 7 **Family Outreach & Evangelism**
Costa Rica

Pastoral Counseling/ Mentoring Ministries in 2018:

God is doing a significant work with individuals and families. The total number of Centrepont's office or ministry visits with people was **248** at the time of this printing, with **42** referrals to Licensed Professional Counselors for clinical issues and follow-up. Centrepont continues to help pay for 1-3 visits if families don't have insurance and are unable to afford this valuable ministry to help save families and marriages.

God's Word and people's souls are the only two things we can invest in that last for eternity. With this in mind, Ron invests time meeting weekly with three groups of men to share God's Word:

- Monday (11:30am) 2-5 men/week
- Tuesday (11:30am) 5-9 men/week
- Wednesday (11:00am) 4-8 men/week

Calendar of EVENTS

2019

- February **Friendly Baptist Church Men's Ranch Retreat**
Wells, TX
- April **Family Outreach & Evangelism, Costa Rica**
- May **Youth for Christ staff & family ministry**
Bangalore, India
- June **Men of Courage Event, Shreveport-Bossier City, LA**
- July **Annual Salmon Frenzy, Alaska**
Men's Fishermen Retreat in Alaska
for Adventure Church, Victoria, TX
- September **Family, Leadership & Evangelism Ministry**
Republic of Congo

JANUARY 20

*Officiant, Wedding of Kelsey Wells & Ethan Eakin
Tulsa, Oklahoma (our granddaughter!)*

Centrepoint Ministries is available for appointments Mondays–Wednesdays 9:00am–5:00pm for men and/or women, families, as well as premarital counseling. We are not licensed counselors but can make referrals.

Our Mission: To develop and strengthen healthy relationships by creating mentoring and discipleship experiences for men, women and their families.



Give a Gift That Lasts All Year

All gifts to Centrepoint are tax-exempt. Give online at www.centrepoint.cc, call our office to make automated regular gifts, or mail to our address below:

Centrepoint Ministries
PO Box 2464 • Lindale, TX 75771

Gifts of any amount help us
to help hurting families.

Thank you!