

EXTRAVAGANT GIFTS FROM FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT

I expect by now you've eaten all your Easter Eggs or other Easter goodies. Not like one lady I heard about who, one Easter, was given a large, beautifully decorated Ester Egg. In fact it was so beautiful that she thought it was too good to break up and eat, so for many months she just looked at it and said how beautiful it was. After a long time she thought that as it was made of chocolate perhaps she had better eat it. Alas, she had spent such a long time looking at it that by now it tasted horrible when she finally began to eat it. We must think how we treat gifts we are given, especially the gifts which come from God.

There is such a lot we could say about gifts of God. We could list them. We could analyse them. We could test what we or others have or have not got. But today I believe God's word for us is to think about **the Giver of gifts** and ourselves as the **receivers of gifts**.

We should be **Bowled over by the Nature of the Giver**

Which is - to bless us

- God's desire is to bless us.
- Isaiah 55:3 He gives us His "Unfailing love"
- Gives good gifts.
- Lavishes on us. " the riches of his grace that He lavished on
- Calls us His children - ! John 3:1 "See how very much our Father loves us, for He calls us his children, and that is what we are!

Gifts from each one of the Trinity

- **Father** has given his only Son
- **Son gives** us salvation, new life, eternal life, "Peace I give you"
- Son gives us Holy Spirit. As Elijah went up the Spirit came down on Elisha with a double portion. So with Jesus
- **Holy Spirit** gives us so much - not just gifts listed but . . .
power to witness. Isaiah 61 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, " **because** the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me **to** bind up the broken hearted, **to** proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,"
"You will receive power"

Response to all these lavish gifts - some questions

Do we know the lavish nature of the love of Father?

Do we know there is Holy Spirit blessing for all believers?

Have we received Holy Spirit in fullness?

Do we treat God's gifts as unwanted? Unopened? Unused?

Do we suffer from a false modesty? Who me?

God wants to bless us. Because we are His children he longs for us to we bless others

All God's gifts are for building up . . . ourselves, our relationship with God and the fellowship.

If we don't receive and pass on we are making each other the poorer.

Scripture says . . .

"Ask and will receive." "You do not have because you do not ask". "Eagerly desire" the gifts of God.