

Spirit of Hope, (2) Nov 30 2025

Bible readings are from NRSV, these readings were sent to me by a dear friend, she thought I would enjoy them. Unfortunately she has since died, I miss her each time I read them.

Reflection prepared by Carol Loewen, LLWL

Isaiah 2:3b Many people shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

A Beautiful Prayer

I asked God to take away my habit.

God said, "No, It is not for me to take away, but it is for you to give it up."

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.

God said, "No. His spirit is whole, his body is only temporary."

I asked God to grant me patience.

God said, "No. Patience is a byproduct of tribulations; it is not granted, it is learned."

I asked God to give me happiness.

God said, "No, I give you blessings; happiness is up to you."

I asked God to spare me pain.

God said, "No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me."

I asked God to make my spirit grow.

God said, "No, You must grow on your own; but I will prune you to make you fruitful."

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life.

God said, "No, I will give you life, so that you may enjoy all things."

I asked God to help me love others, as much as He loves me.

God said ". . . Ahhh, finally you have the idea."

This day is yours do not throw it away.

Remember: To the world you might be one person, but to one person you just might be the world.

(Author unknown, found on the internet)

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Memo from God

Date: Today

To: You

From: The Boss

Subject: Yourself

Reference: Life

I am God. Today I will be handling all of your problems. Please remember I do not need your help.

If life happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFGTD (something for God to do) box. All situations will be resolved, but in My time, not yours.

Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold onto it by worrying about it. Instead focus on all the wonderful things that are present in your life now.

If you find yourself stuck in traffic. Do not despair. There are people in this world for whom driving is an unheard of privilege.

Should you have a bad day at work, think of the person who has been out of work for years.

Should you despair over a relationship gone bad, think of the person who has never known what it is like to love and be loved in return.

Should you grieve the passing of another weekends, think of the woman in desperate straits working twelve hours a day, seven days a week to feed her children.

Should your car break down, leaving you miles away from assistance, think of the paraplegic who would love the opportunity to take that walk.

Should you notice a new gray hair in the mirror, think of the cancer patient in chemo who wishes she had hair to examine.

Should you find yourself at a loss and pondering what is life all about, asking what is my purpose. Be thankful. There are those who did not live long enough to get that opportunity.

Should you find yourself the victim of other people's bitterness, ignorance, smallness or insecurities, remember, things could be worse. You could be one of them!

Should you decide to send this to a friend. Thank you, you may have touched their life in ways you will never know. (Author unknown, from the internet)

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As we consider this Advent season, I would like you to consider each of the following Eight Gifts That Do Not Cost a Cent

1. The gift of listening

But you must really listen, no interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.

2. The gift of affection

Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.

3. The gift of laughter

Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, I love to laugh with you.

4. The gift of a written note

It can be simple. Thanks for the help note or a full sonnet. A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.

5. The gift of a compliment

A simple and sincere, "You look great," "You did a super job" or "that was wonderful" can make someone's day.

6. The gift of a favor

Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.

7. The gift of solitude

There are times when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.

8. The gift of a cheerful disposition

The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone, really it is not that hard to say. Hello or Thank you.

Friends are a very rare jewel. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us. (author unknown, from the internet)

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Cherokee Wisdom: Two Wolves

One evening a senior Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, “My son, the battle is between two ‘wolves’ inside us all.

One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego.

The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith.

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, “Which wolf wins?”

His grandfather simply replied, “The One you Feed.” (from internet, writer unknown)

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As we hear the words of scripture and the words of anonymous writers, we are each reminded to live the life we have been given in the best ways for today and into the future. As we live this life let us do it in the best way we are able. As we do this we give thanks for all we have with the life we have today and into the future. For all we have we give our thanks. Amen