

Gift:

Something given willingly to someone without payment; a present.



Paul exclaimed; “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!” in his second letter to the Corinthians. (2Cor. 9:15) He wrote of God’s grace and the incredible *gift* of Jesus Christ coming to earth to die for our sins. Romans 6:23 tells us that the *gift* of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Our salvation is a gift; it is something given willingly - we cannot pay for it or earn it (see also Ephesians 2:8-9). The *gift* of salvation; we accept it, relish it, thank God for it, but does that *gift* affect our lives? Our marriages?

Jesus said; “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded,” (Luke 12:48). We have been given so much, how can we not give of ourselves. We claim to love our spouse, but do we willingly give of ourselves to them? Do we give the gift of grace even when they do not deserve it? Friends, our marriages are supposed to represent the very nature of the God we claim to serve. Do people see the community, unity, and singleness of purpose that is the nature of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in our marriages? Too often, the answer is a resounding NO! Sure, none of us is perfect and yes, we have to deal with the flesh that seems affect us too often, but there should be a difference in the Christian’s marriage.

What gift can you give to your spouse? What can you willingly give to him or her, without expectation or payment? Not just a Christmas present or birthday present; but on a daily basis, what can you give to your spouse? Perhaps, it is a gift of something they would like. Perhaps, it is speaking their love language. Or giving grace when they mess up. Or doing what they ask of you rather than putting it off. Spend some time thinking about it and willingly give to your spouse without payment; give him or her a present that they would truly appreciate.

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

The *Fortified Marriages Manual and Workbook* is a great tool to help couples grow in their marriage relationship. Additional information about serving your spouse can be found in the following articles:

5 Ways to Give Your Spouse Your Best by Mark Merrill - markmerrill.com

Giving Your Spouse Grace by Greg Smalley - www.focusonthefamily.com