

# Spirit Of Hope

## The Journey of Spiritual Healing

November 2005

Volume 2

No. 10

*Spirit of Hope* is not affiliated  
with any church or other  
organization.

*Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. (James 1:17 ASV)*

## The Greatest Gift

by Syneace Beard

What is the greatest gift? Is it something you have given to someone else or is it something that you have received? It's all a matter of perspective. If you say that the greatest gift is anything but what Christ did on the Cross for us, then you don't understand who He is and what He has done for us.

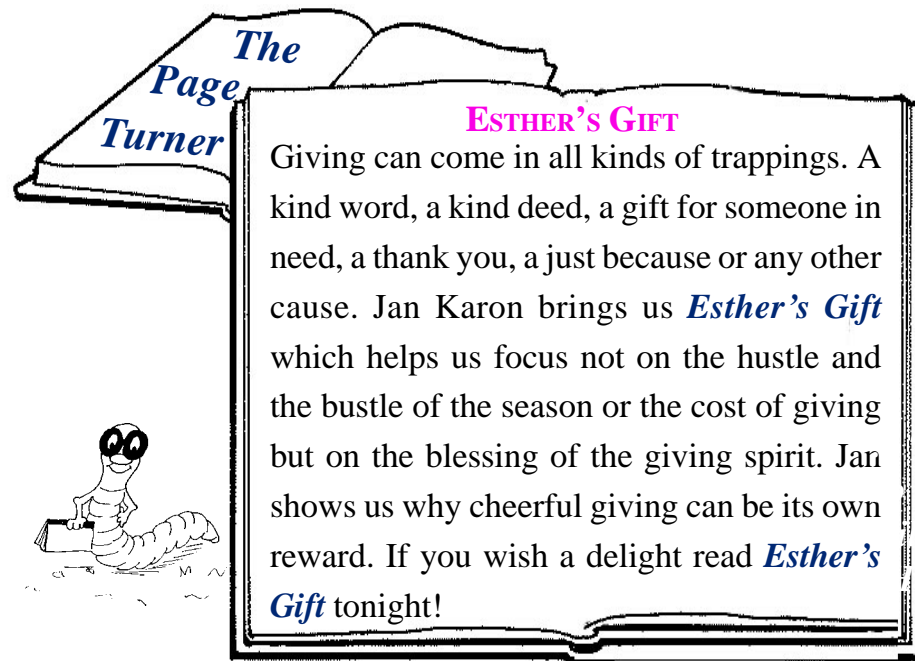
We are to emulate Christ in our way of life, in every facet of life. How can we give a gift as great as Christ's gift to us? We can't, but we can give of ourselves *like Christ* did while He was here on earth.

Giving of myself, hmmm... I remember a time in my life there was no way I would give of myself in anyway whatsoever. It was safer that way. I wouldn't become vulnerable and people couldn't hurt me. If it were up to me I still would be there in my little corner. But when Christ came along in my life, He said I couldn't stay in my corner anymore. He said it was time for me do something for Him.

Christ's life is the perfect example of how to give. He had no money, no possessions, and no extra of anything to give. He did however, give the one thing He had, **HIMSELF**. Who can you give to today?

## Xmas

During the Holiday Season, it has become commonplace to see an "X" replacing "Christ" in the word "Christmas". This is viewed by many as a crass attempt to separate the Savior from the season's festivities. In fact, x is an abbreviation for Christ. It originated from the Greek letter X(chi) beginning the name of Christ (the Anointed). Those who love Christ can find cause to rejoice even when urged to have a "Merry Xmas!"



## The Gift

He did not come with grandeur or even with some flair  
He did not come with fanfare just to a manger bare

The first that night to meet Him was shepherds from the field  
Yet He came to give and to His Father's will to yield

Some may say it's crazy and some may say it's strange  
That He came to save us so our lives could all be changed

## *Wish List*

by Karen Collett

Well it's that *GIVING* time of years again... Oh how I love Christmas time with all the presents and pretty decorations, presents and the giving spirit going on all around. I get soooo giddy just thinking about it. I better start my Christmas list now. I have a lot of gifts to buy this year.

Let me see... Oh yes get a nice gift for them; they were sooo generous to me last year. Oh a special gift for this one, she just blessed me so with the a wonderful basket of goodies... I'll mark this one off; I didn't get a thing from them last year.

My no good relative that doesn't deserve anything anyway, well I don't have to worry about them, just mark them off the list. Oh and the one who got me the cheap gift last year well I sure don't want to go out of my way for that one. Yes... I just love the spirit of the Holiday don't you?

Now let me see how long my list is to buy for. Yes pretty good list I should really get a lot of gifts coming in this year. Maybe if I splurge on the wealthier folk I can really get some good stuff this year. Especially if I start early that will give them plenty of time to run out and get something good for me. Whooo weeee. It's going to be a good Christmas at my house.

I'll just sit here by my window and make my detailed wish list to pass out to all my friends and family. Oh my there's that little fella walking home from school by himself again, he can't be no bigger than a first grader. His Mama won't be home for at least another 2 hours. He's there every afternoon by himself, my heart just breaks so much since they moved in a couple weeks ago.

I'll just say a quite little pray for them right now. Dear Lord, provide for that single Mom and her precious little boy. They sure need you right now and I am counting on you Lord to provide what they need. Thank you. Amen.

Now back to my list. What do I want this year... Hmm... You know... to heck with my list. Who needs all the hassle of Christmas shopping and gift exchanging. I don't remember it being such an expensive Holiday, I thought it was about the birth of our Savior and their ain't nothing more important than that. Besides I don't know of anyone who needs a darn thing especially me. In fact when that boys mama gets home I going right over there and ask if the little fella could come over to my house until she gets home. I could fix him a little dinner and play games, wouldn't be no trouble at all.

Yours Merrily  
Bessy

## *"My Giving Spirit"*

By Vickie Schumann

It is that time of year again when we go crazy trying to complete everything to get ready for Christmas. I can get so busy planning for school parties, cooking holiday food, finding that perfect gift for everyone on my list, decorating my house with Christmas cheer that I can forget what it's about. Of course, I do this with a smile on my face and a joyful song in my heart. Oh, if only that were true.

If truth be told, I dread the school parties, can't decide what dish to cook, I stress too much over the gift I give others, and my Christmas decorations get slapped on the tree and around the house as quickly as possible. The look on my face could scare most grown men and the song I sing hardly brings joy to my heart.

*Where is my GIVING SPIRIT?* Did I forget to unpack it with my Christmas decorations? I know I have one. Let me see when did I use it last? Maybe it needs to be assembled. Where are those directions?

I found them in 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

I can see now that I am going about this the wrong way. I should treasure those school parties and use the opportunity to share with others what Christ has done in my life. I should enjoy spending time with my children passing on my favorite Christmas recipe. I should appreciate each family gathering as if it were the last, because for some it may be. I should take the opportunity provided by the Lord in those long lines to witness to lost souls who cannot get away. Never again will I stress over finding the perfect gift. God already gave it when He gave his son Jesus for us. And as for my home, I will consider it a great privilege decorate it in a way that will bring Honor and give Glory to the Lord Jesus for his *GREAT* sacrifice. I am so glad I found my *GIVING SPIRIT* before it was too late to share it with others.