

# The 8th Day Message

INSPIRATION FOR DECEMBER, 2011

Are you the seeker or the gift? "What on earth are you talking about Rosita," you may be asking? "Tis" the season of gift giving, right? Well, there are those who go seeking for the perfect gift, and then there's the gift itself. So, are you the seeker or the gift? Which one would you rather be?

There can be joy and excitement in seeking out the perfect gift, but first, it would help if you knew exactly what you were looking for! Do you? Above all holiday seasons, Christmas time is the time of the year when people frantically go about looking for all sorts of things to give loved ones and friends. They are usually determined to give them a gift that they will cherish for the rest of their lives. I think that most of us would want our gifts to be the best gift our family member or friend has ever received, but how do we know they will even like it? So, we look very carefully, and looking carefully takes time and patience and effort.

I don't know about you, but I hate to look for something that I cannot find; something that got misplaced or lost. And yet, there seems to be so much joy and fun in looking for that perfect gift, why is that do you think? I think that one of the reasons why it brings us so much joy to search for that perfect gift is because we are anticipating the look on our loved ones face when they discover the gift that we have searched so hard for. Some of us go to great lengths to find such a gift, and manage such great feats to get it! We often have a great story to share on how we came upon such a wonderful gift too.

Have you ever given yourself as a gift for Christmas? How did it feel? How did you feel being the gift that your loved one just couldn't refuse? Being the gift of a lifetime can be risky business, after all, how do you know that you will be accepted? How do you know you'll be liked and even adored? You don't, and yet you want to give yourself anyway.

[John 3:16](#) states, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." This Bible text tells me that not only was God the seeker, but the gift as well! So, love is very much involved in being the gift itself, don't you see? Do you love enough, deep enough to be the very gift someone could be looking for? God risked being the gift of a lifetime because He loved. Giving love as a gift can be viewed as an interesting, if not, new concept in this world of selfishness and woe. And even though it has been 2,000 years since God gave this gift of Love, it still seems to be a new concept to many people.

This holiday season I challenge you to not just be the seeker, but to become the gift as well. The gift of self and love do not need any special wrappings to be madly and ferociously ripped off with glee on Christmas day, but just a tenderness and compassion that is so rare in today's world. Instead, give the gift of love and self in the unusual wrappings of kindness, endearment, selflessness, delight, grace, and peace, and make someone truly happy; a happiness that can only come from a heart that knows and reveres Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Are you the seeker or the gift? Surprise someone and be both this holiday season!