

Gifts in the Book....

Isaiah 40:29-31 - He gives power to the tired and worn out and strength to the weak. Even the youths shall be exhausted, and the young will all give up. But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Galatians 5:22-23 - But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Philippians 4:6-7 - Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything; tell God your needs and don't forget to thank him for his answers. If you do this you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than any human mind can understand.

We had just entered the hallowed doors of "Man Cave for Men" or "Fleet Farm" as it is really called, when someone greeted us with a catalog and a highly energized talk about the soon to open "Toyland," telling us if we wanted the best choice, we needed to be there some time before the store opened at 6 a.m. on that day. At this point in our lives, that door has closed....children are in their 40's and 50's and our grandchildren are 19 and 14. But it certainly opened that page in my heart when they were very young and the Sears Catalog arrived. With pens in hand, they would go through and circle all of their wishes for Christmas. What fun my husband and I had looking at the circled items and deciding what would be the WONDERFUL gift(s) that Christmas. What a journey of hope and longing met with joyful surprise!

Many years have passed and now I find that my wishes and my children's have a much different theme to them. We pray for good health for all we love, peace in our world, forgiveness and love not only for us but from us to others. We pray for generous hearts that share what we have so richly been blessed with and the opportunity to be the hands and feet and heart of Jesus in a world that needs love and care and hope badly.

We pray for courage and protection for all who serve on our behalf: the military, the police, firefighters, emergency responders, and for our pastors and our church. We pray for love to unite us as a country when there are so many destructive ways dividing us.

And when it comes to these wishes, these hopes, these prayers, there is a book to go to. One that we can page through and circle our hearts' desires and hopes. And then we have a God who promises us to be the one who grants us so much of what we hope for.

And the GIFTS are WONDERFUL and bring us JOY and PROMISE!!!

Join me this week, as we open this book from God: the BIBLE and circle the promises and gifts from our wonderful God!

Prayer: Gracious and loving God, grant us childlike hearts as we page through your book, the BIBLE, and circle your promises and our hopes and our needs. Give us grateful hearts for all of the ways you provide for us, not just at this time of year but every day of our lives. Make us vessels of your love in our world and generous with all you have blessed us with. Thank you for loving us...we surely love you. In your precious name we pray. Amen