

Receive His Gift

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Tag imod hans gave

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You are a beloved daughter of God, you are a cherished son of God, and He has gifted you His perfect, holy Son.

I er Guds elskede døtre og dyrebare sønner, og han har givet jer en gave i form af sin fuldkomne, hellige Søn.

Gift Giving

Gift giving is a social custom that spans all cultures, civilisations, and millennia. Throughout time, people have given gifts to each other to strengthen relationships, express love and gratitude, and mark important events like weddings, birthdays, and holidays. And humans are not the only ones of God's creations to give gifts to each other! Among many other examples we could point to, penguins are known to give shiny pebbles to their prospective mates, and bonobos (cousins of the chimpanzee) give fruit to expand their circle of friendship.

What gifts have you given? Think of a time when you found—or made—the perfect gift for someone you love. You just knew the gift was exactly what this loved one wanted and something they would treasure. What was the gift? Was it for your mother? a friend? your child? a teacher? your grandfather? How did you feel when you found this gift? How did you feel when you thought about this person you love opening the gift? Similarly, when did someone give you the perfect gift, and what was it like to receive it?

My Father's Gift to Me

When I was about seven years old, living with my parents in Arabia, a children's film called *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* was released. The film is about a magical car that can drive itself,

Giv gaver

At give gaver er en social skik, der spænder over alle kulturer, civilisationer og årtusinder. Gennem tiden har mennesker givet hinanden gaver for at styrke forhold, udtrykke kærlighed og taknemmelighed og for at markere vigtige begivenheder som bryllupper, fødselsdage og højtider. Og menneskene er ikke de eneste af Guds skabninger, der giver gaver til hinanden! Blandt mange andre eksempler, vi kan pege på, er pingviner kendt for at give småsten til deres potentielle partnere, og bonoboer (som er beslægtet med chimpanser) giver frugt til hinanden for at udvide deres venskabskreds.

Hvilke gaver har I givet? Tænk på et tidspunkt, hvor I fandt – eller lavede – den perfekte gave til en, I elsker. I vidste bare, at den gave lige var, hvad denne person ønskede sig, og noget de ville værdsætte. Hvad var gaven? Var den til jeres mor? En ven? Jeres barn? En lærer? Jeres bedstefar? Hvordan føltes det, da I fandt denne gave? Hvordan havde I det, da I tænkte på, at denne person, I elsker, ville åbne gaven? Og på tilsvarende vis, hvornår har nogen givet jer den perfekte gave, og hvordan var det at modtage den?

Min fars gave til mig

Da jeg var omkring syv år gammel og boede med mine forældre i Arabien, udkom der en børnefilm med titlen *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. Filmen handler om en magisk bil, der kan køre

float on water, and even fly! I knew that back home in England they made a miniature toy car just like Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, and oh, how I wanted one! You could pull a lever, and the toy car's wings would pop out! My father went on a business trip to England and asked if I wanted him to bring anything back for me, and I told him how very much I would like to have one of those Chitty Chitty Bang Bang cars.

He came back from his trip, and no car appeared. I was very sad and thought he must have forgotten. But about 10 days later was my birthday, and a little package, beautifully wrapped, was waiting for me. With great anticipation, and hardly daring to hope too much, I opened the gift and found my car. I was so happy that I cried. I pulled the lever, and the wings popped out, just like the car in the film! How I thanked my father for this most treasured gift. I played with that car for years and kept it for many more. I think my dad loved giving me that car at least as much as I loved receiving it.

Giving, Accepting and Opening, and Receiving

We can think of gift giving as having three parts to it:

The giving of the gift, where the giver selects, makes, or prepares the gift and presents it to the loved one. This involves thoughtful intention on the part of the giver to give something meaningful.

The accepting and opening of the gift, when the recipient accepts the gift from the giver—often with expressions of surprise, gratitude, and excitement—before opening it, sometimes untying a bow and unwrapping the package to discover what the gift is.

And then there is perhaps the most important part, the receiving of the gift. To receive a gift sincerely given is so much more than accepting and then opening it. It is more, even, than recognising the worth of the gift and expressing gratitude to the giver. To truly receive a gift, we come to value it for ourselves, put it to full use in our lives, and then remember with thankfulness the giver.

Receiving a gift is not passive but an intentional and meaningful process that goes far

af sig selv, flyde på vandet og endda flyve! Jeg vidste, at der hjemme i England var blevet lavet en miniature legetøjsudgave af bilen i Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, og åh, hvor jeg ønskede mig en! Man kunne trække i et håndtag, og så poppede legetøjsbilens vinger frem! Min far tog på forretningsrejse til England og spurgte, om jeg ville have noget med tilbage, og jeg fortalte ham, hvor meget jeg gerne ville have en af disse Chitty Chitty Bang-biler.

Han kom tilbage fra sin rejse, men der var ingen bil. Jeg blev meget ked af det og tænkte, at han måtte have glemt det. Men omkring ti dage senere var det min fødselsdag, og en lille, smukt indpakket gave ventede på mig. Med stor forventning, og uden at turde håbe for meget, åbnede jeg gaven og så min bil. Jeg blev så glad, at jeg begyndte at græde. Jeg trak i håndtaget, og vingerne poppede frem, ligesom på bilen i filmen! Hvor jeg dog takkede min far for denne dyrebare gave. Jeg legede med den bil i årevis og beholdt den i mange flere. Jeg tror, at min far var mindst lige så glad for at give mig den bil, som jeg var for at modtage den.

At give, acceptere, åbne og modtage

Vi kan tænke på det at give gaver som bestående af tre dele:

Handlingen med at give gaven, hvor giveren vælger, laver eller forbereder gaven og giver den til en, de holder af. Det kræver en betænksom hensigt og indsats fra giverens side for at give noget meningsfuldt.

Accepten og åbningen af gaven, når modtageren får gaven fra giveren – ofte med overraskelse, taknemmelighed og spænding – før vedkommende så åbner den, nogle gange ved at løsne sløjfen og pakke den op for at se, hvad gaven er.

Og så er der den måske vigtigste del, modtagelsen af gaven. At tage imod en gave, der gives med reelle hensigter, er så meget mere end blot at acceptere og åbne den. Det er også mere end blot at anerkende gavens værdi og udtrykke taknemmelighed over for giveren. Når vi virkelig tager imod en gave, begynder vi at værdsætte den, anvender den flittigt i vores tilværelse og mindes giveren med taknemmelighed.

Modtagelse af en gave er ikke en passiv, men en bevidst og meningsfuld proces, der går langt

beyond merely opening a package. To receive is to appreciate and connect with both the gift and the heart of the giver in a way that strengthens the bonds between the giver and receiver. Thinking of that toy car brings back a host of golden memories, as I feel once again my father's deep love and care for me, represented by that gift and countless other generous acts.

Our Heavenly Father's Gifts

Our Heavenly Father has innumerable gifts of light and truth prepared to shower down on each of us, His treasured children. They flow from our Bounteous Giver like a wellspring in the wilderness from His benevolent heart. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights." In our covenant bond with the Father, He is ever the Giver and we the humble recipient.

The Greatest of All the Father's Gifts, Through Which All Others Flow

But we could receive nothing without the greatest of all the Father's gifts, His beloved Lamb, His Son, Jesus Christ. All of our Father's gifts flow from and are activated by the Saviour's willing offering in Gethsemane and on the cross and His triumphant Resurrection. Jesus Christ, our merciful Redeemer, is the supreme gift from our Father of lights. "In the gift of his Son hath God prepared [for us] a more excellent way."

One All-Encompassing Gift of Eternal Truth

I would like to talk about one all-encompassing gift of eternal truth that underpins our ability to receive all else our Father desires to endow us with—a vital gift of knowledge that, when fully accepted and received deep in the soul, contextualises the joys and hardships of life and our unanswered questions: It is that we really are God's children. That truth is breathtaking! Stunning! And it is not figurative.

Imagine you are hearing this for the first time! You really are His cherished daughter. You really are His precious son. And the path you are on is His plan of happiness. With His omniscient love, He knows exactly who you were before you were sent to earth and what you have experienced so far in your mortal life, and He has mercifully planned for your every tomorrow. And oh, how

ud over blot at åbne en pakke. At modtage er at påskønne og føle tilknytning til både gaven og giverens hjerte på en måde, der styrker båndet mellem giver og modtager. Når jeg tænker på den legetøjsbil, frembringer det et væld af gode minder, da jeg igen føler min fars dybe kærlighed til og omsorg for mig, der blev repræsenteret i den gave og utallige andre generøse handlinger.

Vor himmelske Faders gaver

Vor himmelske Fader står klar til at øse utallige gaver i form af lys og sandhed ud over enhver af os, hans elskede børn. De strømmer fra vores gavmilde Giver, som en kilde i ørkenen, fra hans menneskekærlige hjerte. »Alle gode og fuldkomne gaver kommer ned fra oven, fra lysenes fader«. I vores pagtsbånd med Faderen er han altid Giveren, og vi er den ydmyge modtager.

Den største af alle Faderens gaver, hvorigennem alle andre strømmer

Men vi kunne intet modtage uden den største af alle Faderens gaver, hans elskede Lam, hans Søn, Jesus Kristus. Alle vor Faders gaver kommer igennem og aktiveres af Frelserens frivillige offer i Gethsemane, på korset og hans sejrige opstandelse. Jesus Kristus, vor barmhjertige Forløser, er den ypperste gave fra lysenes Fader. »Ved sin gave, sin Søn, har Gud beredt en mere fortrinlig vej [for os]«.«

Én altomfattende gave af evig sandhed

Jeg vil gerne tale om én altomfattende gave af evig sandhed, der underbygger vores evne til at modtage alt andet, vor Fader ønsker at begave os med – en afgørende gave af kundskab, som, når den accepteres og modtages af sjælens dyb, kontekstualiserer livets glæder og trængsler og vores ubesvarede spørgsmål. Gaven er denne: Vi er vittterligt Guds børn. Den sandhed er betagende! Fantastisk! Og den er ikke billedlig.

Forestil jer, at I hører dette for første gang. I er virkelig hans kære datter. I er virkelig hans dyrebare søn. Og den sti, I er på, er hans plan for lykke. Med Faderens altomfattende kærlighed ved han præcist, hvor I var, før I blev sendt til jorden, og hvad I indtil videre har oplevet i jeres liv på jorden, og morgendagen planlægger han nådigt for jer. Og hvor han dog længes efter, at

He yearns to one day have you return to Him, to receive the supreme intent of all His beautiful gifts, eternal life with Him.

The question is not whether this gift of truth is real but whether we will discover and receive it. The gift has already been bestowed upon us by the Father. The price for the ultimate purpose of this gift has already been paid by the Saviour. But if you have been taught this, said this, and sung this truth for years, maybe the awesome wonder of it has long since faded and you no longer feel its power and peace.

If this priceless gift of understanding—and all the goodness, peace, and hope that flow from it—is left unaccepted, unopened, and unreceived, what a terrible loss for us! What a sadness for the Giver! “For what doth it profit a man if a gift is bestowed upon him, and he receive not the gift? Behold, he rejoices not in that which is given unto him, neither rejoices in him who is the giver of the gift.”

I invite you to receive, either for the first time or to a greater extent than ever before, the magnificent realisation that you truly are God’s beloved child. You must undo the bow, tear off the wrapping paper, open the box, and actively receive with grateful humility a true, pure understanding of this foundational truth. The Holy Spirit can bear witness to your heart that you are indeed a child of the Most High.

When you welcome this majestic reality into your very soul and feel both the comfort and the thrill of it, your entire paradigm shifts! You can feel His love, hear His voice, and recognise His hand, no matter what is happening, or not happening, in your life. You can redefine how you see yourself and others. Your covenant bond with your Saviour becomes even stronger, and through the lens of this sweet gift, life takes on new brilliance, beauty, and hope.

Please, will you pray to understand if you are truly receiving this transformative knowledge deep in your soul? Will you please accept the gift? Will you do so more deeply, more freely, more abundantly than you ever have before—and in so doing be showered with all of those other gifts that come with it?

Receiving This Gift of Eternal Truth

You may be wondering, “What do I have to do to receive this gift from God?” Well, ac-

I en dag vender tilbage til ham og modtager det højeste formål med alle hans smukke gaver, evigt liv med ham.

Spørgsmålet er ikke, om denne gave af sandhed er virkelig, men om vi vil finde den og tage imod den. Gaven er allerede blevet skænket os af Faderen. Prisen for det ultimative formål med denne gave er allerede blevet betalt af Frelseren. Men hvis I har lært, talt og sunget om denne sandhed i årevis, så er den største forundring over den måske for længst falmet, og I føler ikke længere kraften eller freden ved den.

Hvis denne uvurderlige gave af forståelse – og al den godhed, den fred og det håb, der strømmer fra den – ikke accepteres, åbnes eller tages imod, er det et forfærdeligt tab for os! Sikke en sorg for Giveren! »For hvad gavner det et menneske, at han, hvis der bliver skænket ham en gave, ikke modtager den? Se, han glæder sig ikke over det, der bliver givet til ham, ej heller glæder han sig over den, der er gavens giver.«

Jeg opfordrer jer til – enten for første gang eller i højere grad end nogensinde før – at tage imod den storslåede erkendelse af, at I hver især virkelig er Guds elskede barn. I må løsne sløjfen, rive gavepapiret af, åbne æsken og med taknemmelig ydmyghed aktivt tage imod en sand og ren forståelse af denne grundlæggende sandhed. Helligånden kan i jeres hjerte bære vidne om, at I vitterligt er et barn af den Højeste.

Når I tager imod denne prægtige indsigt helt ind i selve sjælen og både føler trygheden og spændingen ved den, så ændrer hele jeres verdenssyn sig. I kan mærke hans kærlighed, høre hans stemme og erkende hans hånd i jeres liv uanset, hvad der sker eller ikke sker. I kan omdefinere, hvordan I ser jer selv og andre. Jeres pagtsbånd med jeres Frelser bliver endnu stærkere, og set igennem denne dejlige gaves prisme får livet en ny glans, skønhed og et nyt håb.

Vil I venligst bede for at forstå, om I virkelig helhjertet tager imod denne forvandlende kundskab? Vil I ikke nok tage imod gaven? Vil I gøre det dybere, mere utvungent, mere generøst, end I nogensinde har gjort før – og derved blive overøst med alle de andre gaver, der følger med?

Modtagelse af denne gave af evig sandhed

I tænker måske, »hvad skal jeg gøre for at modtage denne gave fra Gud?« Rent faktisk

tually, nothing. It is a gift from the Giver. It is simply a fact. Just let it in. You are His child. You are beloved of Him. Do not complicate it. Do not block the receiving of this gift with thoughts that you are somehow undeserving. The reality is none of us is “deserving”—all the Father’s gifts are received only through the merits, mercy, and grace of the Holy Messiah, but how His generous heart longs for each of His children to receive them! Then, as your new or renewed understanding dawns on you, rejoice in thanking the Giver of this gift.

Since finding my faith in my mid-20s, I have awakened to the realisation that I truly am a son of God. The more fully I internalise this gift, the more keenly I know who I am and how completely I am loved. Some things that have helped me grow in understanding are the words of scripture, my patriarchal blessing, temple worship, serving others, expressing gratitude, and sacred prayer with my Father. I marvel at how earlier sorrow, pain, and grief in my life would have been reframed, soothed, and much of it overcome had I known this beautiful truth.

Come unto Christ and Receive

Moroni exhorts us to “deny not the gifts of God” but to “come unto Christ, and lay hold upon every good gift.” You can come to Christ with confidence in His loving-kindness and receive all His gifts of joy, peace, hope, light, truth, revelation, knowledge, and wisdom—with your head held high, your arms outstretched, and your hands open, ready to receive. And you can receive these gifts because you are secure and grounded in the knowledge that you are a beloved daughter of God, you are a cherished son of God, and He has gifted you His perfect, holy Son to redeem you, justify you, and sanctify you.

You are a child of God. This is not just a nice song we sing. Will you please accept, open, and receive this gift of knowledge and understanding from Him? Will you hold it close as the precious treasure it is? Re-receive this gift, or perhaps truly receive it for the very first time, and let it transform every aspect of your life. This is the more excellent way God has prepared for you through the gift of His Son. You really are that you might have joy! In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

ingenting. Det er en gave fra selve Giveren. Det er ganske enkelt et faktum. Luk det ind. I er hans barn. Han elsker jer. Gør det ikke kompliceret. Bloker ikke for modtagelsen af denne gave med tanker om, at I på en eller anden måde ikke fortjener den. I virkeligheden er der ingen af os, der »fortjener« den – alle Faderens gaver modtages alene ved den hellige Messias’ fortjeneste, barmhjertighed og nåde, men hvor hans gode hjerte dog længes efter, at hvert af hans børn tager imod dem! Når jeres nye eller fornyede forståelse så kommer til jer, så glæd jer i taksigelse over denne gaves giver.

Efter jeg fandt min tro, da jeg var midt i tyverne, har det vakt en erkendelse af, at jeg vitterligt er en Guds søn. Jo mere jeg tager denne gave til mig, jo mere ved jeg, hvem jeg er, og hvor komplet jeg er elsket. Noget af det, der har hjulpet mig til bedre at forstå dette, er skriftens ord, min patriarkalske velsignelse, tempeltjeneste, tjeneste for andre, at udtrykke taknemmelighed og hellig bøn til min Fader. Jeg tænker med forundring over, hvordan tidligere sorg, smerte og bedrøvelse i mit liv kunne have været omfortolket, lindret og i stor grad overvundet, hvis jeg havde kendt til denne smukke sandhed.

Kom til Kristus og modtag

Moroni formaner os til »ikke [at forkaste] Guds gaver«, men derimod at »[komme] til Kristus og [gribe] fat i enhver god gave«. I kan komme til Kristus med tillid til hans kærlige godhed og modtage alle hans gaver af glæde, fred, håb, lys, sandhed, åbenbaring, kundskab og visdom – med rank ryg, udstrakte arme og åbne hænder, rede til at modtage. Og I kan tage imod disse gaver, fordi I er trygge og grundfæstede i kundskaben om, at I er Guds elskede døtre, I er Guds dyrebare sønner, og han har skænket jer sin fuldkomne, hellige Søn for at forløse, retfærdiggøre og helliggøre jer.

I er Guds kære barn! Det er ikke bare en hyggelig sang, vi synger. Vil I ikke nok acceptere, åbne og tage imod denne gave af viden og forståelse fra ham? Vil I værdsætte den som den dyrebare skat, den er? Tag imod denne gave igen eller tag rigtigt imod den for allerførste gang, og lad den transformere ethvert aspekt af jeres liv. Dette er den mere fortrinlige vej, Gud har beredt for jer gennem sin gave, sin Søn. I er i sandhed til for at kunne nyde glæde! I Jesu Kristi navn. Amen.