

Receive His Gift

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Ia Mauaina Lana Meaalofa

Saunia e Elder Patrick Kearon
O Le Korama a Aposetolo e Toasefululua

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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.

O oe o se afafine pele o le Atua, o oe o se atalii faapelepele o le Atua, ma ua la faameaalofaina oe i Lona Alo paia atoatoa.

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

Foai Atu o Meaalofa

O le foai atu o meaalofa o se agaifanua faaagafesootai ua soo ai aganuu uma, malo, ma taimi uma. I le gasologa o taimi, ua tuu atu ai e tagata meaalofa i le tasi ma le isi e faamalolosia ai sootaga, faailoa atu le alofa ma le lotofaafetai, ma faailoga ai mea taua e tutupu e pei o faaipoipoga, aso fanau, ma aso malolo. Ma o tagata e le na o i latou o foafoaga a le Atua e foai atu meaalofa i le tasi ma le isi! I le tele o isi faataitaiga e mafai ona tatou faasino i ai, o penekuini ua lauiloa latou te tuuina atu iliili fe'ilafi i a latou paaga, ma bonobos (o tausoga o le manuki) e tuuina atu fua suamalie e faalatele ai la latou li'o o faigauo.

O a meaalofa ua e tuuina atu! Mafaufau i se taimi na e maua ai—pe sa faia ai—se meaalofa atoatoa mo se tasi e te alofa i ai. Faatoa e iloa o le meaalofa o le mea tonu lava lea sa mana'o ai lenei pele ma se mea o le a latou faatauaina. O le a le meaalofa? Pe sa mo lou tina? se uo? lau tama? se faiaoga? lou tamamatua? O a ni ou lagona ina ua e maua lenei meaalofa? Na faapei ou lagona ina ua e mafaufau i lenei tagata e te alofa i ai o tatalaina le meaalofa? E faapena foi, o anafea na avatu ai e se tasi ia teoese meaalofa talafeagai, ma o le a se faalogona i le mauaina o lena meaalofa?

O Le Meaalofa a Lo'u Tamā ia te A'u

Ina ua tusa ma le fitu o'u tausaga, a o non-ofo ai ma o'u matua i Arapia, sa amata faaalua se atatifaga a tamaiti e igoa o le *Chitty Chitty Bang*

film is about a magical car that can drive itself, 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

Bang. O le atafaga e faatatau i se taavale faamanele lea e mafai ona aveina ia lava, faapepea i luga o le vai, e mafai foi ona lele! Sa ou iloina i lo'u atunuu o Egelani, sa latou faia se tama'itaavale meataalo e pei lava o le Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, oka so'u manao i sa'u taavale! E mafai ona e tosoina le 'au ona tulioso mai lea o apaau o le taavale meataalo! Sa alu lo'u tamā i sana malaga faapisinisi i Egelani ma sa fesili mai pe i ai se mea na ou manao e sau ma ia mo a'u, ma sa ou ta'u atu ia te ia lo'u manao tele i se tasi o na taavale Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

Sa foi mai lana malaga, ae leai se taavale na aliali mai. Sa ou matuai faanoanoa lava ma ou faapea ifo ai na galo ia te ia. Peitai, pe tusa ma le 10 aso mulimuli ane o lo'u asofanau, ma sa i ai se tamai afifi na manaia lona afifiina, sa faatalitali mo au. Faatasi ai ma se naunautaiga tele, ma e faalē o tele se faamoemoe, sa ou tatalaina le meaalofo ma maua ai la'u taavale. O le tele naua o lo'u fiafia na ou tagi ai. Sa ou tosoina le 'au, ma sa tulioso mai i fafo apaau, e faapei lava o le taavale i le atafaga! Sa ou faafetai tele i lo'u tamā mo lenei meaalofo sili. Sa ou taalo i lena taavale mo le tele o tausaga, ma sa ou teuina mo nisi tausaga se tele. Ou te masalo sa fiafia lo'u tamā e foai mai ia te au lena taavale e faapei foi ona ou fiafia e taliaina.

O Le Foai Atu, Taliaina ma le Tatalaina, ma le Mauaina

E mafai ona tatou mafaufau i le foai atu o meaalofo faapea e tolu ni vaega o i ai:

O le foai atu o le meaalofo, lea e filifili ai le na te foai atu, fai, pe saunia le meaalofo ma tuuina atu i lē e alofa i ai. E aofia ai i lenei mea se manatu magafagafa a lē na foa'ia e avatu se mea 'anoa.

O le taliaina ma le tatalaina o le meaalofo, pe a taliaina e le tagata e onaina ma aveese mai le meaalofo mai lē na foa'ia, —e tele ina faia ma faailoaga o le ofo, lotofaafetai, ma le sagisagi fiafia, a o le'i tatalaina, o nisi taimi o le se'iina o le lipine ma tatala le afifi ia iloa ai pe o le a le meaalofo.

Ona i ai lea atonu o le vaega aupito i taua o le mauaina o le meaalofo. O le mauaina ma le lotofaamaoni o se meaalofo e matuai sili atu nai lo le taliaina ona tatalaina lea. E sili atu foi, nai lo le iloina o le taua o le meaalofo ma le faailoa atu o le lotofaafetai i lē na foai atua. Ina ia mauaina moni se meaalofo, tatou te faatauaina mo i tatou lava, faaoga atoa i o tatou olaga, ona manatua

the giver.

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

lea ma le lotofaafetai le tagata na foai atua.

O le mauaina o se meaalofo e lē o se mea e faifua ae o se faagasologa ma le loto i ai ma le anoa, e sili mamao atu i le na ona tatalaina o se afifi. Ina ia mauaina o le talisapaia ma faafesootai ai le meaalofo ma le loto o le na foa'ia, i se ala e faamalolosia ai noataga i le va o lē na te foa'ia ma lē na te talia. I le mafaufau ai i lēna taavale meataalo e toe faafoi mai ai se anoanoai o manatuaga auro, a o o'u toe lagonaina le alofa loloto ma le amana'ia o a'u e lo'u tamā, na faaalua i lēna meaalofo ma isi mau faatinoga alofa.

O Meaalofo a Lo Tatou Tamā Faalelagi

Ua i ai i lo tatou Tamā Faalelagi meaalofo e le mafaitaulia o le malamalama ma le upumoni ua saunia e liligi ifo i o tatou luga taitoatasi, o Ana fanau faapelepele. E tafe mai lo tatou Foai Agalelei e faapei o se vaitafe i le vao lafulafuā mai Lona finagalo agaalofo. "O mea lelei uma e faifua mai, atoa ma meaalofo uma e atoatoa ona lelei, mai luga lava ia, e alu ifo mai le Tamā o malamalama." I la tatou maliega faalefegaiga ma le Tamā, o la lava o Le e Foai i taimi uma, a o tatou lava o ē faatauva e taliaina.

O Le Aupito Silisili o Meaalofo Uma a le Tamā o Loo Tafe Mai Ai Isi Meaalofo Uma

Ae e leai se mea e mafai ona tatou maua e aunoa ma le meaalofo aupito silisili o meaalofo uma a le Tamā, o Lana Tamai Mamoe Pele, Lona Alo o Iesu Keriso. O meaalofo uma a le Tamā e tafe mai ma ua faagaoioia e le taulaga naunauta'i a le Faaola i Ketesemane ma i luga o le satauro, ma Lona Toetu manumalo. O Iesu Keriso, lo tatou Togiola alofamutimutivale, o le meaalofo aupito i mau luga mai lo tatou Tamā o malamalama. "I le meaalofo a lona Alo ua saunia ai e le Atua [mo i tatou] se ala e sili atu ona lelei."

O Le Meaalofo e Tasi e Aofia Ai Upumoni e Faavavau

Ou te fia talanoa atu i se meaalofo e tasi e aofia ai mea uma o upumoni e faavavau lea e lagolago ai lo tatou tomai e mauaina ai isi mea uma e finagalo lo tatou Tama e faaeeina mai ia i tatou—o se meaalofo taua o le malamalama lea, a taliaina ma le atoatoa ma a mauaina i le ta'ele o le agaga e mafaufau ai i le matalalaga o le olioli ma faigata o le olaga, ma a tatou fesili e le'i taliaina: O

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 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

itatou moni o fanau a le Atua. O lena upumoni e maoae! E ofoofogia! Ma e lē faafaatusa.

Manatu faapea faatoa e faalogo i lenei mea mo le uluai taimi! O oe moni lava o Sona afafine faapelepele. O oe moni lava o Sona atalii faapelepele. O le ala foi o loo e i ai o Lana fuafuaga o le fiafia. Faatasi ai ma Lona alofa silisiliese, Na Te silafia lelei lou tagata a’o lei auina mai oe i le lalolagima le mea ua e oo i ai i lou olaga faitino, ma na Ia fuafuaina ma le alofamutimutivale mea uma mo lou lumanai atoa. Oi, ma Lona naunau ia i ai se aso e te toefoi atu ai ia te Ia, ia mauaina le faamoemoe laualuga o Ana meaalofo matagofie uma, o le ola e faavavau faatasi ma Ia.

O le fesili e lē o le, pe moni lenei meaalofo o le upumoni ae pe o le a tatou iloa ma mauaina. Ua uma ona faaee i o tatou luga le meaalofo e le Tamā. O le tau mo le faamoemoega laualuga o lea meaalofo ua uma ona totogi e le Faaola. Ae afai na aoaoina oe i lenei upumoni, ta’u atu, ma usuina mo le tele o tausaga, atonu la ua leva ona mou atu lemaofa ofoofogiai lea mea, ma ua e le toe lagonaina lona mana ma le filemu.

Afai o lenei meaalofo e lemafaatauina o le malamalama—ma mea lelei uma, filemu, ma le faamoemoe lea e tafe mai ai—e taatitia e le taliaina, e le tatalaina, ma e le mauaina, se ma’imau ina a matautia mo i tatou! O se faanoanoaga tele mo Le Na Foa’ia. “Aua se a le aoga i se tagata pe afai ua foai atu ia te ia se mea alofa a e na te le talia le mea alofa? Faauta, e lē olioli o ia i le mea ua tuu atu ia te ia, pe olioli foi ia te ia o lē na tuuina mai le meaalofo.”

Ou te valaaulia outou a le o le taimi mua-mua, pe i se tulaga ua sili atu nai lo se isi taimi, le maoae o le iloina o oe lava o se atalii/afafine pele o le Atua. E tataua ona e se’ia le lipine, sasae ese le pepa afifi, ma tatala le pusa, ma talia ma le naunautai faatasi ai ma le lotomauualalo faafetai se malamalama moni, ma le mamā a’ia’i o lenei upumoni faavae. E mafai e le Agaga Paia ona molimauina i lou loto o oe moni o se atalii/afafine o Le Silisiliese.

Pe a e talileleia ma le naunautai lenei mea moni malualii i lou lava agaga, e suia ou uiga ma le vaaiga masani! E mafai ona e lagonaina Lona alofa, faalogoina Lona siufofoga, ma iloa Lona aoao, tusa lava po o le a le mea o tupu, pe le o tupu i lou olaga. E mafai ona e toe faauigaina le ala e te vaai ai ia te oe lava ma isi. O le a oo ina malosia atu la oulua sootaga o feagaiga ma lou Faaola, ma e ala i tioata o lenei meaalofo

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 todoto receive this gift from God?” Well, actually, 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

ofoofogia, o le a maua ai e le olaga se susulu fou, matagofie, ma le faamoemoe.

Faamolemole, ia e tatalo ina ia malamalama pe ua e mauaina moni lenei liua malamalama loloto i lou agaga? E mafai faamolemole ona e taliaina le meaalofo? Pe e te faia ea i le loloto sili atu, saoloto sili atu, ma faateleina sili atu nai lo le taimi muamua—ma i le faia faapea ia sasaa sautualasi mai ai ma isi meaalofo uma e o mai faatasi ai?

Mauaina o Lenei Meaalofo o le Upumoni e Faavavau

E te ono manatunatu, “O le a se mea e tatau ona oufaia mauaina ai lenei meaalofo mai le Atua?” O le mea moni lava ia, e leai se mea. O se meaalofo mai Lē Foa’ia. Ua na o se mea moni lena. Na o le aumai lava i totonu. O oeo Lona afafine/atalii. E pele oe ia te Ia. Aua ne’i faafenu-mia’ia. Aua ne’i polokaina le mauaina o lenei meaalofo i mafauauga faapea e le tatau ona e mauaina. O le mea moni, e leai se tasi o i tatou “ua tatau ai”—ia meaalofo uma a le Tamā e na o galuega, alofamutimutivale, ma le alofa tunoa o le Mesia Paia’e mauaina ai, ae maeu le naunau o Lona finagalo alofa mo Ana fanau taitoatasi ia mauaina! O lea la, a o oo mai lou malamalama fou pe faafouina ia te oe, ia olioli i le faafetai i lē Foa’ia maia lenei meaalofo.

Talu mai le mauaina o lo’u faatuatua i le 20 ma ona tupu o o’u tausaga, na fagua ai lava a’u e iloa o a’u moni o se atalii o le Atua. O le tele o le atoatoa o le teulotoina o lenei meaalofo, o le tele foi lea na ou iloa ai ma le naunautai pe o ai a’u, ma le atoatoa o le alofaina o a’u. O nisi o mea na fesoasoani ia te au e faatupula’ia ai lo’u malamalama o upu o tusitusiga paia, o lo’u faamanuiaga faapeteriaka, tapuai i le malumalu, auauna atu i isi, faaaliga o le agaga faafetai, ma le tatalo paia i lo’u Tamā. Ou te maofa lava i le ala semanu e toe faatulagaina ai, faamafanafaina ma foia ai le tele o faanoanoaga, tiga ma le faavavau i lo’u olaga, pe a na ou iloina lenei upumoni matagofie.

O Mai ia Keriso ma Mauaina

Ua apoapoi mai Moronae ia i tatou ia “outou le faafitia meaalofo a le Atua,” ae ia “o mai ia Keriso ma taofimau i meaalofo lelei uma.” E mafai ona outou o mai ia Keriso ma le mautinoa i Lona alofa agalelei ma mauaina Ana meaalofo uma o le olioli, filemu, faamoemoe, malamalama, upumoni, faaaliga, atamai, ma le poto—ma o outou

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.

ulu o faaeaea i luga, o outou lima faaloaloa, ma o outou lima matala, ua saunia e mauaina. Ma e mafai ona e mauaina nei meaalofoa ona ua mautu o ma faavae i le malamalama faapea o oe o se afafine pele o le Atua, o oe o se atalii faapelepele o le Atua, ma ua Ia ofoina atu ia te oe Lona Alo paia atoatoa e togiolaina oe, tauamiotonuina oe, ma faapaiaina oe.

O oeose atalii/afafine o le Atua. Ua le na o se pese manaia leni tatou te usuina. Faamolemole pe o le a e talia, tatala, ma maua leni meaalofoa o le atamai ma le malamalama mai ia te Ia? Pe o le a e taofimau i ai o se 'oa taua? Toe-maua leni meaalofoa, pe atonu foi ia mauaina moni mo le uluai taimi, ma tuu atu e suia ai vaega uma o lou olaga. O le ala aupito sili lea ona lelei ua saunia e le Atua mo oe e ala i le meaalofoa o Lona Alo. Ua e i ai ina ia e maua le olioli! I le suafa o Iesu Keriso, amene.