

A Gift . . . “What, for me? Aw, you shouldn’t have!”
I’ll bet you’d probably agree with me that
the BEST kind of gift *EVER*
is any kind that comes . . .
with *YOUR* name on it!!
Am I right?



Sometimes gifts come as a complete surprise to you, and other times you’ve wished long and hard for them (and maybe even hinted). But *EVERYONE* loves a beautifully wrapped gift, with a tag that says it’s meant just for you!

Do *you* happen to remember receiving a remarkable gift during the past year? Or, has the past year been more of a “just trying to remember where I live” kind of year? You may have received some beautiful gifts, but right now, it just feels like one big blur. Well, it’s been a full and challenging year for all of us, and it’s often difficult to find the time to just slow down and *remember*.

But every now and then the world stills, and we find ourselves wrapped in a quiet moment or a silent night. It is in moments like these that we remember the countless gifts we have been given . . . freely, with no strings attached. And when they do come to mind, they can leave us in awe, without words, even feeling unworthy. Gifts such as . . .

A new and precious baby
in an old and tattered manger,
A paint-by-number sunrise and a full moon before dark,
An unexpected hug,
Late-night dreams where we find we can fly.

And, although these kinds of gifts come without ribbons or bows, they come with the BEST surprise of all ~ one that we’d miss if we don’t remember to “check the tag” . . .

They . . . *also* . . . come with *YOUR* name on them.
And they are meant . . . *JUST FOR YOU*.

A Sacred Scripture

“Therefore, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God which is in you . . . for God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:6-7

An Intention

If ever I find myself
imagining a baby’s soft cry in the cool Bethlehem air,
searching the night sky for a glimpse of the moon,
or surprised by the warm embrace of a dream or fellow dreamer,
I will *know* that this moment is a *Gift*.
I will remember, then, to look for the BEST surprise of all –
and see that it is
my name
written on the tag.