

'Tis the season of gift giving. I put a lot of thought into creating my Christmas lists as I attempt to come up with the perfect gift for each recipient.

Every good gift and perfect gift comes down from the Father of lights with whom is no variation or shadow of turning. James 1:17

Do you ever think about what God's list for mankind might have looked like?

God so loved the world that He gave:

Our wonderful world.

A world of beauty, precision, and variety.

Picture a rose as it unfurls its petals. The extravagant beauty of a sunset fading from vibrant yellow, red and purple; to pink, violet and orange.

He displayed his creativity in a plethora of flowers, birds, animals—including dragonflies and ladybugs.

God so loved the world that He gave:

Life and breath, companionship

Sight and things to see,

He gave the sense of *smell* and a myriad of aromas to enjoy.

Along with smell He gave us the ability to *taste*—that morning cup of coffee, or a juicy peach.

Let's not forget *hearing*—a child's laughter, Beethoven's symphonies, and warning sirens

or *touch* and textures—the rough bark of a tree, the comforting touch of a loved-one's hand, the soft pelt of a llama.

God so loved the world that He gave:

Emotions – love, joy, anger, peace, laughter.

He gave *intellect*, language and understanding so we can talk, teach and relate to each other. Art, books, synthetic fabrics, metals, and the computer that I am writing this on are all gifts from the perfect giver—God.

God so loved the world that He gave:

Everything we have, are, could ever use or make. He also gave us freedom, a will and choices. His gifts are priceless, and far beyond anything we even imagine.

Then, because our sin separated us from His perfect holiness, He gave us the best gift of all. He gave His Son.

*God so loved the world that He gave
His only beloved Son
That whoever believes in Him,
Should not perish
But have eternal life.*

Of course, my list pales next to the list of perfect gifts that God gave me. But gifts given out of love reflect the Giver of all good gifts, and serve as reminders of the One who gave us everything.

May we all be grateful for what we receive and are able to give.

Marilyn

*Thank you for being the blessing you are
to those of us at Camp.*

Marilyn Powell
Po Box 159
Fairview MI 48621-0159

Email: MarilynP@CampBarakel.org
Work Phone: 989-848-2279
Cell Phone 810-881-2106