

Supporting Christian Unity in the Alfred Community



Free

I've never written a devotional before. When my husband asked me if I might be interested in writing a devotional I didn't quite know what to write about ~ but out of the blue I woke up with the idea to write about the topic of *free*. You know, doing something and asking for nothing in return. The problems people have in being able to accept something that is free and why we may have a hard time doing so.

I know in today's society that quite often when someone speaks of something for "free" its hard to imagine. We're looking for a little catch. You know like when you're reading an article that says, "FREE!" in large print but often has a hidden cost in the fine print. Many times, we "women" of the home get a phone call saying that we have won 6 subscriptions to 6 different magazines for 12 months, only to learn you have to commit to a 10 year subscription.

I don't know when the word games began and I don't remember at what age I too became skeptical about "free" offers. Free should mean free like the dictionary says.

Dictionary-Free: Costing nothing; gratuitous:

Thesaurus-Free: To free from an obligation or duty:

Maybe that is why so many people have a hard time accepting salvation as a free gift rather than the idea that it must be earned.

In Proverbs 11 ²⁴One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. ²⁵A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.



In Matthew 10:8 – As Jesus sent the twelve out into the world as sheep among wolves he empowered them to heal the sick, raise the dead and cleanse the unclean of the day. He reminded them "Freely you have received, freely give."

I am sure that there are many more areas in the Bible that describe "free" or "gift". I just feel that we as human beings, and babies of our Lord and Savior, that we need to be more accepting of things given freely. And better yet we should be able to give more freely without expecting something in return.

As we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ we need to take time to consider His willingness to "freely" give us what we couldn't ever possibly earn ~ salvation. God gave his one and only son for our sins and all we have to give in return is our love and faithfulness.

"What we are is God's gift to us, what we make of ourselves, is our gift to God".

It doesn't cost us anything and when we think of the sacrifice that God made for us we should be able to rest in Him, and show our love to Him by loving, giving, receiving, helping, and being there for one another ~ freely.

When you wake up tomorrow ask your loved one or child if there is something you can do to help them to get ready to go to work, school, or just to go about their day. Do it without expecting something in return. I'll tell you, it's a wonderful feeling knowing that you've helped someone and hopefully put a smile on their face and to help make their day a better day. And another thing ~ it will come back around to you in ways you hadn't imagined.

Maybe if we make it a regular practice we'll be able to give a lot easier and maybe we'll even be able to receive something without a searching for a "catch" to it.

May God Bless You all, and continue watching over you and your loved ones.

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