



冠冕成長網絡

感恩節期的無價禮物

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我們正生活在一個空前經濟恐慌的時代裡，我看到黃金的需求和它所帶出的價格，恰可衡量出人們，對人為經濟惶恐和不確定感。

安全感是一種我們都想要和需要的東西，尤其是現在。但是，我們也知道金子不能給任何人真實的安全。真正的安全感來自於生活在“神的經濟”中。

當你認為你將在感恩和聖誕節來臨，與你的朋友們和你所愛的人們分享禮物時，建議你考慮送些會減緩不安全感，並最終比金子還要寶貴的禮物。

也許我們可以叫這個為“節期的聖經禮物指南”：

1. 給予你有的

記得當那個乞丐在耶路撒冷殿門外，向彼得和約翰乞討錢時嗎？雖然那乞丐生來就是跛子，他聚焦於金錢上，認為那是他問題的解決之道。這個故事是一幅圖像，在於我們因認識基督而有的超然寶藏。彼得完全理解這個，他對乞丐的回答應該響在我們的耳中：

“然後彼得說，銀或金我都沒有，但是我給你我所有的，奉拿撒勒人耶穌基督的名，叫你行走”（使徒行傳 3:6 新譯本）。

然後那跛子起來行走了！想像那通電的一刻。

神沒有差遣彼得和約翰在一個捐款的事奉上；祂差遣他們出去傳揚耶穌。

這一年，你可能無法將人們期望的禮物給他；但卻可以是你的機會，像彼得和約翰一樣，把“你所有的”給予出去。

我們有福音的榮耀寶藏，這福音能夠使瞎子看見，並醫治每個破碎心靈。所以要富有同情心並大膽的將耶穌傳揚出去。

2. 給予銀網裡的金蘋果

幾年前，我自己的一個朋友，成了全球最大的公司之一的執行總裁。他的故事出現在華爾街日報、富比士雜誌和財富雜誌。因他在事業的成功曾令人印象深刻。

在與父親的一次交談中，我順便題及我曾如何因著我的朋友在商業世界中大大掘起至頂尖行列而欣喜，父親的反應使我難忘。

“好吧，兒子！那是令人印象深刻，但是你所正在做的才是更為重要的。我寧願你做你所正在做的，勝於你是世界上最大公司的執行總裁。”

我說不出話來，我從未期待那會是我父親的反應。不知何故，我曾誤以為當一家全球上億美元公司的執行總裁，會比當冠冕財務事工的執行總裁更讓我爸爸引以為傲。

我錯了---真的錯了！那些話大大的祝福了我靈魂，以至在他懷著自豪和喜悅的眼神看著我時，我得努力將淚水嚥住。我知道，他不只是那樣說說，他是認真的。

所羅門說，”一句貼切的話，就像金蘋果落在銀網子裏”（箴言 25:11 新譯本）。

在我們的一生中，我的爸爸給了他所有的孩子們，許多有形的禮物。在 1980 的聖誕節，他給了我每一個人一英兩的純金子。雖然這些所有的禮物，都令我感激；但對我而言，那些肯定而仁慈的話語，更遠比一英兩值 1,300 美元的金子，來得更有價值---它們將永遠是無價的。試想在要來的節期中，作為你給予你所愛的人一些肯定又適宜話語的機會。

3. 給予真實的安全感

如果你知道你擁有一件東西，是能夠釋放你所愛的人，免於恐懼和不安全感，你要將它放在一個大盒子裡，用一個蝴蝶結裝飾它，並且帶著一種，就像那個收禮者打開這個無價寶藏時，而有的喜悅眼神。

要從恐懼和不安全感裡得著自由現在正處於缺乏當中。但是，不管你擁有多少金子或無論它的價格有多高，對那些敬畏神的人來說，這些金子將永遠無法履行承諾。

聽詩篇 112 的應許：

“讚美耶和華，敬畏耶和華的人，是有福的！在祂的誠命中可尋得大喜樂！他的孩子們將在地上有能力；正直人的後代必要蒙福。富裕和財富在他的家中；他的公義存到永遠！”

“即使在黑暗中，有黎明的光向著正直人。他有恩惠、有憐憫、有公義。慷慨並出借自如的，他用正義陳明自己的事，這人要得著益處。”

“他切確永不被動搖；一個正直的人將被紀念到永遠。他將不懼怕壞消息；他的心是快快地堅定，信靠耶和華。他的心是穩當的，他將不懼怕；到末了他得以看見勝過他的敵人。”（詩篇 112:1-8 新譯本，黑體是所強調的重點）。

當你將你白白得來的無價禮物慷慨的給出時，我祈禱這將會是你給予禮物最棒的一年。



by Chuck Bentley

We are living in an unprecedented time of economic fear. I see the demand for gold and its resulting price as a way to measure people's fear and uncertainty in Man's Economy.

Security is something we all want and need, especially right now. But, we also know that gold cannot make anyone truly secure. Real security comes from living in God's Economy.

As you consider the gifts you will share with friends and loved ones through the upcoming holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas, I recommend that you consider giving gifts that will alleviate insecurity and ultimately be more precious than gold.

Maybe we can call this the "*Biblical Gift Guide for the Holiday Season*":

1. Give from What You Do Have

Remember when the beggar outside the temple gate in Jerusalem asked Peter and John for money? Although he was crippled from birth, the beggar was focused on money as the solution to his problem. This story is a picture of the superiority of the treasures we have in knowing Christ. Peter understood this perfectly well. His reply to the beggar should ring in our ears:

"Then Peter said, 'Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk'" (Acts 3:6 niv).

And the crippled man walked! Imagine that electrifying moment.

God did not send Peter and John on a mission to give away money. He sent them on a mission to give away *Jesus*.

This year, you may not be in a position to give gifts that people are expecting from you; but this can be your opportunity, like Peter and John, to give from what "you do have."

We have the glorious treasure of the gospel that gives sight to the blind and heals every broken heart. So be compassionate, yet bold, and give *Jesus*.

2. Give Apples of Gold in Settings of Silver

A few years ago, a personal friend became CEO of one of the largest companies in the world. The story broke in *TheWall Street Journal*, *Forbes*, and *Fortune*. His success in business was very impressive by all measures.

“

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”

In a conversation with my father, I mentioned in passing how delighted I was for my friend's spectacular rise to the highest ranks in the business world. Dad's response will never leave me.

“Well, son, that is *impressive*, but what you are doing is more *important*. I would rather you do what *you* are doing than be CEO of the world's largest company.”

I was speechless. I never expected that would be my father's response. Somehow, I had mistakenly thought being the CEO of a multi-billion dollar global company would have made my dad more proud of me than being CEO of Crown Financial Ministries.

I was wrong—really wrong. Those words blessed my soul so much that I had to fight back the tears as he looked at me with pride and joy. I knew that he not only said it, he meant it.

Solomon said, “*A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver*” (Proverbs 25: 11 niv).

My dad has given all of his children many tangible gifts throughout our lives. In 1980, he gave us all an ounce of pure gold for Christmas. While I appreciate

all of those gifts, those kind words of affirmation were worth far more than a \$1,300 ounce of gold to me—they will always be priceless.

Think of the approaching holiday season as your opportunity to give appropriate words of affirmation to those you love.

3. Give Real Security

If you knew you held in your hand the one thing that could liberate a loved one from fear and insecurity, you would put it in a big box, decorate it with a bow, and watch with joy as the recipient opened this invaluable treasure.

Freedom from fear and insecurity is in short supply right now. But, regardless of how much gold you have or how high its price goes, it will never be able to deliver what is promised to those who fear God.

Listen to the promises in Psalm 112:

"Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands. His children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.

"Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for the gracious and compassionate and righteous man. Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice.

"Surely he will never be shaken; a righteous man will be remembered forever. He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD. His heart is secure, he will have no fear; in the end he will look in triumph on his foes" (Psalm 112: 1-8 niv, emphasis mine).

As you generously give from the priceless gifts that you have freely received, I pray that this will be your very best year of gift giving!