

Everyone has a Christmas “wish list.” Right? A person needs to be ready when asked “What do you want for Christmas?” because you might not be asked a second time! It’s not always wise to let someone else decide what he or she thinks you might want under the tree on Christmas morning. Trust me on this. Anyway...

I have my personal Christmas wish list...a few things I’d enjoy receiving as gifts this year and also a few things I would enjoy experiencing during the Christmas season. But I also have a “PK’s Christmas wish list” — which has very little to do with me because it is mostly about you. Here are some of the items on my PK’s Christmas wish list...

I wish for you the freedom of living fully in the embrace of God’s amazing grace. Some of you have accepted the eternal forgiveness made possible through the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ but you have never been able to forgive yourself. You’re spending your earth time trying to make amends, attempting to repay God’s grace, and striving so very hard to make yourself more acceptable to God. I wish for you that at some point during this Christmas season, you could grasp the incredible truth that God loves you completely and without condition; that nothing you have done or could ever do will influence God to love you more or less; that owing to your trust in Christ’s death & resurrection you are accepted by your Father and your sins are not only forgiven...they are forgotten; and I wish that you could comprehend that the chain holding your ball of shame and guilt has been severed by the power of the resurrection.

I wish for you the experience of spiritual surrogacy. Not in the sense of adopting babies or sending a monthly donation to Save The Children. I wish for you the experience of facilitating the birth of an individual into the family of God; of leading someone into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. I wish for you the ups and downs of sharing life with a spiritual baby. I wish for you the privilege of pouring yourself into the life of a new born Christian, the exasperation of helping them get up after stumbling yet again, and the exhilaration of witnessing that spiritual infant grow into a mature follower of Jesus Christ.

I wish for you a healthy dose of self-discipline. There are so many things vying for your affection: it is amazing how slyly your life can become dominated by the shrill of urgent things rather than the substance of important things. So I wish for you enough self-discipline to establish a daily quiet time w/God — a portion of your day when you retreat from everything swirling around in your soul and intentionally center yourself in the presence & peace of your heavenly Father. I wish for you enough self-discipline to maintain a healthy balance between work/family/play; to exercise and care for your physical health; and enough self-discipline to make connecting with the Body of Christ every week a priority instead of an extra-curricular option.

I wish for you both the opportunity to take an outrageous leap of faith and the courage to trust your Father’s faithfulness. I wish you would take the leap of trusting God with your tithe and experience the blessing that follows. I wish you would take the leap of forgiving and experience the healing in your own heart. I wish you would answer an invitation to serve, give it everything you’ve got, and experience God working through your life. I wish you would ask your spouse to pray over you and experience the intimacy of spiritual oneness. I wish for you great success, great failure, and the thrill of knowing that neither changes God’s opinion about you. I wish for you the grand adventure of living by faith. I wish for you a life drenched in the wonder of a baby in Bethlehem becoming the resurrected Messiah. Grace, peace, & Merry Christmas! Love you, PK.

