

# FaithPrayers

It is our privilege to pray for you

## THE PRESENT

History shows us that through the centuries, people have viewed both themselves and their societies in many different ways. When you read between the lines of what they did and what they wrote, we find worldviews so utterly different from the current Western view. Some saw themselves as warriors walking through the world, from birth to death; this was a strong cultural self-identity, not a vocation. Some saw themselves as units of a tribe that had an overarching life of its own, far more significant and longstanding than their single life or generation. Some cultures viewed, and do today, their entire life as a series of events indicating either honor or shame, with very little in between. Many of the Biblical cultures had this view. The subject of guilt, and the continual effort to attribute either blame or blamelessness, remains one of the driving forces in Western culture.

The current cultural climate of Western countries appears to view humans as a problem. We

each spend countless hours and discussions fixing our “problems”. Everything appears to be a problem, from finding a parking space to the inner workings of the mind.

Our current psychology seems to center around helping us either discover our problems or fix our problems. Many churches, social groups, and organizations have developed into massive and extensive support networks for our “problems.” In our national

discussions, feeding the hungry is discussed as a problem instead of being an opportunity to help out. People feel that you are getting close to them when you express and reveal your problems. If you say you are happy, they don’t feel that they have really gotten to know you.

At Christmas we celebrate Jesus, who was sent to us as a profound gift from God. And, at Christmas, we give gifts to each other to commemorate that fact.



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“My House will be called a House of Prayer for all nations...”

Isaiah 56:7

Matthew 21:13

## THE PRESENT (continued)

I wonder what would happen if we began to view ourselves as a present to the world? Not a problem. A gift. A real one. A person who is here as a gift to everyone around us. And I wonder what would happen if we didn't take on that view as yet one more way to overcome our low self-esteem 'problem', or our 'problem' with feeling worth, but if we actually believed it was true, that it was a life purpose. That it required as much action on our part as any problem we could muster up. That it was true no matter how it made us feel.

And what if this is true? What if you are here as a gift to every single person you have known or met? What if you are a unique creation of God? And what if you believed that, not because it made you feel better or as less of a problem, but because it was true.

This Christmas, as you contemplate the astounding gift of life itself, the blessing to us of our beautiful



world, the unmatched present of the Messiah of the world, take one moment and wonder at the answer to this startling question....

“Am I supposed to be a gift? Am I a blessing as well? Did God really know me as I was being formed in the womb and am I supposed to matter here? What if I am not a problem, but a gift?”

May you have a blessed Christmas and be filled with that miraculous light of all lights that Jesus brought to our world.

~Mary Ann Offenstein  
Founder and Director of Operations  
FaithPrayers National Prayer Line

## SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH



**“For God so loved the world that He gave us His only begotten Son...”**

**John 3:16**

■ Have a prayer request? Want more information? We can always be contacted on our 24 hour a day, 7 day a week toll-free prayer line.

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