

## Polly's Pondering

"I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people." Leviticus 26:12

When I was younger, gift giving seemed a bit easier. I would just pick up something that seemed to fit the personality of the person for whom I was getting the gift. It was a surface kind of gifting. There was not a lot of thought put into the gift and it certainly did not require a personal relationship with the recipient that went beyond the acquaintance category.

But today, I find that I want to give something that helps the individual to see how much they are loved, valued, and cherished. These gifts require more thought, more time, sometimes more cash, in other words, these gifts require something more of me. They require a relationship.

God did just that when He looked deep into the needs of humanity and made the choice to give to us the only gift that could ever meet our needs. This gift comes to us at great personal cost to God. Because of God's desire for a relationship with mankind, and His desire to bring us back into a right relationship with Him we received the gift of Jesus Christ, the only begotten Divine Son of God birthed into the world in flesh and blood. We didn't earn the gift of Christ, nor deserve it. But still God gifted us.

It is my prayer that as Christmas morning dawned each of us took a moment to say a word of thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ. It is my prayer that we will reflect on the ways in which we have been willing to receive not only the Christ Child but the relationship with God that has been righted, desired, and willingly ushered into our lives.

May we all treasure the gift of Christ and be more intentional in our relationship with God knowing that we are loved beyond any measure we could have ever imagined. His gift of Christ is full of mercy, grace, and hope. Yes, we have been saved! Saved from the suffocating bondage of sin and death. Saved to a life of abundant joy!

Merry Christmas and a hope filled New Year!