

H.R.S.

11/2/13

## The Gift List

by Naomi Fata

Christmas had been complicated this year at the home of two young boys, Jack and John. On Christmas morning Jack had been thrilled to open his presents, finding everything he had asked for. His Christmas list had been long and very specific. His parents delighted in surprising him on Christmas morning, seeing his face light up as he opened the gifts he had asked for.

John on the other hand did not seem so excited about his gifts. Before Christmas his parents had asked him for a shopping list, but he just never seemed to get around to it. He figured it would be okay if he didn't ask for anything, because he knew they would still give him presents. John's presents consisted of practical gifts, supplies for school and money for his savings account. In monetary value, his gifts equal the same as Jack's, but on Christmas morning when John saw Jack's excitement at receiving everything he had asked for he felt a twinge of resentment. He wondered why Jack was given so many good presents while his own presents were frankly quite boring and even unwanted. His parents had desired to give him what he requested, but he had never asked.

We have a Heavenly Father that longs to give good gifts to His children. He is the giver of every good and perfect gift, but all too often we do not receive, because we do not ask. The promise is that when we ask, we receive. (Matthew 7:8) Of course this doesn't quite mean that if we ask for great wealth we would become wealthy, but wealth would not satisfy our hearts anyway. What we can ask for is based on the promises, all of them available to us. *The promises of provision, protection, and security in Him – the promise that we will never walk alone.*

Like everything in God's universe, the asking is governed by His boundaries. The boundaries are there for our protection. For instance a parent does not give a small child a high powered paintball gun. It would not be age appropriate and would be dangerous. In the same way, our Good Father gives good gifts that are appropriate for our time.

Are we ever afraid to ask thinking that He will be upset with our requests or fearful that He might say no? Do we come asking with faith that He is love and He is good? Or does complacency get in our way, leading us to believe that we don't need to ask because He will give anyway?

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