

NO STRINGS ATTACHED

II Cor. 9:15 *"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift."*

Last week was Spring vacation for most of the area schools and when I saw a carnival setting up in the parking lot of Clackamas Town Center, I knew rain was on the way.

We decided that Spring break would be a good opportunity to spend some extra time with our 9 year old grandson, Cobi. He came over on Sunday to spend the night. We see him often but every time I see him, I think about how much he's grown. He's almost as tall as I am and growing like a weed. He and his poppa (Dennis) love to put puzzles together and we all play Sorry! together. While he was here I got to thinking about a Christmas a few years ago when everyone gathered at our house to open gifts. There must have been about 15 people plus a tree in our living room....lots of chaos and noise. Cobi was the only young grandchild there so he got plenty of presents and attention. The thing that got the most attention though, was his reaction to every single present he got. When he opened a present, he exclaimed, "Oh! That's just exactly what I've always wanted!" Every time: No matter what the present was, that was exactly what he wanted and he was sincere. He was so excited to receive a present that it almost didn't matter what it was....he loved it.

I couldn't help but compare his reaction to my reactions at times when I receive something from my heavenly Father. Many times I take things for granted or, worse yet, don't even recognize a gift when it falls into my hands. Sadly, as we grow older, we tend to lose the wonder of opening a gift. Other things crowd in and we don't experience surprise and excitement as much as we did as children. Sometimes we even look at gifts as possibly having some kind of string attached and too often, they do. The innocence is gone and we forget how to respond to a gift, especially from the One who loves us and who gave us the greatest Gift of all.

My desire for myself and for you is that we have eyes and hearts wide open to recognize the gifts that are given to us every day; that we overcome apathy and an attitude of deserving what we get and, that we be grateful for gifts freely given for no reason other than love. There are no strings attached to these gifts and they don't go out of style or where out. They are eternal.

James 1:17 *"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."*

Georgia Miller

