

December 20, 2021

**Gift Ideas**  
**[Philippians 1:3-13](#)**

*“And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.”*

Only five more shopping days until Christmas, and I know exactly what gift I’m getting you! You’re going to love it, and I know it will fit you perfectly.

I’m asking God to give you (and me) “knowledge and full insight to determine what is best.”

Once we’ve opened this present, we’ll be reminded that God extends the same grace, love and mercy to each and every human being, even those who we may not think deserve our grace, love and mercy.

God really does love ALL of us, even though NONE of us has done anything to deserve it. As God’s children we share a common bond: we are ALL in need of God’s grace, love and mercy. In a world rife with division, we can acknowledge this common bond by extending these Christ-like behaviors to all the people God brings into our lives.

We’ll find ourselves feeling more “pure and blameless” when we consistently offer these Christian values to our friends ... and our foes. Our Scripture from Philippians leads us to hope that our love may overflow with knowledge and insight.

As we meditate on Paul’s prayer, we can remind ourselves that Advent is a time to recapture what we are seeking. “Peace on Earth” is sought by many.

Our knowledge and insights can be used in efforts to extend Christ’s love as our gift to a hurting world. Let’s make Paul’s prayer our own in hopes that we can help make that love “overflow more and more.” During the Season of Advent, we prepare for the coming of God’s ultimate gift by offering our gifts to the glory of God.

***Prayer:*** *Gracious and loving God, we pray for discernment to know your will. Empower us to extend Christ-like behaviors toward our neighbors and forgive us when we fail you. Take our lives and lead us to glorify you. Amen.*

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