



If I Could Give You A Gift

I would love to share this “gift” written by my friend, Steve Thomas. I hope it brings you the joy and emotions that it did me. I love you all!!

“If I could give you a gift, I'd give you what you already have... Jesus. More of Him, more believably in your life. Which is a difficult thing to do. The way I'd do it would be to give you a few words I think Jesus would say to you.

He would call you by your name, and He wouldn't start talking until you looked Him straight in the eyes. Then once your eyes were on Him, He'd say:

I *like* you. I'm not stuck with you. I *chose* you. Before I ever made this planet and spun it into orbit, I had you in mind. I picked you. I think you count. I have plans for you that you can't even begin to imagine or believe.

You are My workmanship, My work of art, My poem, My sculpture. But I'm not finished with you. I don't make ‘instant masterpieces.’ I go a little at a time. Sometimes I know you wish I would hurry up and finish. But don't forget, I get my pleasure from the process as well as the finished product.

And please don't misunderstand this: when I re-shape and re-fashion you - when I bend and shape you to make changes that I want - don't forget that I'm doing this because I love you! I want your life to show the beauty of my craftsmanship. Sometimes when I fashion you, it will hurt. Especially when you resist My hand. But sometimes, even when you cooperate, it will hurt. Some changes are just painful.

When I am working one of those painful changes - especially then - don't forget that it is Me, not ‘chance’ at work. You can't trust ‘chance’ when it hurts. But you can trust Me. I know how far to go - just exactly how much pressure and stress you can take. Please trust me to never go past that point. Sometimes you'll think I have. But trust me. I won't. And don't be discouraged by the fact that this stress point is different for you than for someone else. I know you. I made you. And because of that, I know where I can do my most profound work in you. I don't love you less or someone else more because I'm not doing the same things in both of your lives.

Believe this: the masterpiece I'm shaping in you is *already* wonderful beyond belief. The finished work will go even far beyond that.

When I'm finished, ***YOU'LL LOOK LIKE ME!***”

Steve Thomas

From My Heart,

Billy