

The Perfect Gift

There's a new term which showed up a few years ago which makes me laugh every time I think about it...re-gifting. Did you know that "re-gift" is actually in the dictionary? It's funny because it's something we've probably all done! Not only have we all done it, but don't you also get a certain sense of frugal satisfaction from it? However, there's always that moment when time stands still as your re-gift is opened and you wonder if it's going to fly. Then there's the internal sigh of relief when the recipient offers a smile and a "thank you." Mission accomplished!

Re-gifting is usually a far cry from the perfect gift. Maybe it was on Christmas or your birthday, years ago, when that one thing you had your heart set on showed up in gift-wrap. Somehow, some way, somebody cared enough and paid close enough attention to find your perfect gift. I don't know who gets more satisfaction out of the perfect gift; the giver or the getter!

What if you could give someone a gift that would change their life? What if that gift was not only the perfect gift, but the perfect re-gift, too! Now, that would be the best of both worlds! You have that gift and it's the gift of forgiveness.

Forgiveness is when we erase the debt somebody owes us for something they've done or said. We've all been there. The fact is that, it doesn't take long when it comes to relationships before the water gets muddied with offence. It happened in the Garden of Eden and it's been happening ever SINce.

Some people harbor unforgiveness for a lifetime, but rather than destroying the person who hurt them, it destroys them. If they would only realize that forgiveness would free them from the bondage of bitterness. It frees them and it frees the one whom they forgive.

You may know someone who has been carrying around the heavy burden of their offence for years and, if only you would forgive them, they could be set free. Maybe you've been dying a little every day because of something you've done or said to someone. Go to them. Ask for forgiveness.

I know the cost is high. It's high because it means that either you, or the other person, pay the price. In forgiveness, it's your pound of flesh on the scale. We see this with crystal clarity in the Cross, for it is there that God paid the price for our

offence by giving the life of His own Son. He gave His life, so that we could be forgiven. Shouldn't we be willing to crucify our pride and offer forgiveness to a burdened soul that they may be free? It's been said that you're never more like God than when you forgive.

Why not give someone the gift of forgiveness today? It's the perfect gift and the perfect re-gift! It won't change the past, but it will change the future.