



**This
Christmas
Mend a quarrel.
Seek out a forgotten
friend. Dismiss suspicion
and replace it with trust. Write
a love letter. Share some treasure. Give
a soft answer. Encourage youth. Manifest
your loyalty in work and deed. Keep a promise.
Find the time. Forego a grudge. Forgive an enemy.
Listen. Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand.
Flout envy. Examine your demands on others. Think first of
someone else. Appreciate. Be kind. Be gentle. Laugh a little. Laugh
a little more. Deserve confidence. Take up arms against malice. Decry
complacency. Express your gratitude. Go to church. Welcome a stranger.
Gladden the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the Earth.
Speak of Love.
Speak it again.
Speak it still
Once again.**

Author Unknown

A GIFT LIST ANYONE CAN AFFORD

It's Christmas time again, and most of us are frantically trying to think of gifts for all those special people on our shopping lists. We want gifts that are original, meaningful, and that fit our budget. Here's a unique list of 10 gift suggestions for "the large of heart and small of purse." These gifts won't cost you a dime, but that does not mean they have no value. On the contrary, when you give one of these gifts, you are giving the most priceless gift of all: yourself.

1. **THE GIFT OF LISTENING.** Psychologists tell us that one of the greatest things we can do for another is to listen to them. Why not give this valuable gift to those people on your list who live alone and have no one else to talk to? This means you must really listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no walking away, no planning your response. Just listen.
2. **THE GIFT OF SIGNS OF AFFECTION.** Take the time to give your loved ones signs of affection. Be generous with your hugs, your kisses, your gentle squeezing of the hand, and your pats on the back. Let these tiny actions demonstrate the great love you have inside of you.
3. **THE GIFT OF A NOTE.** Write notes to your loved ones. They can be as simple as "I love you" or as creative as a sonnet. Put your notes where they will surprise those special people: in his lunch, in her purse, among his socks, on her pantry shelf. Though the notes may be a surprise, the message will not.
4. **THE GIFT OF LAUGHTER.** Everyone loves to laugh. Give those you love this gift. Just cut out a cartoon, clip a joke, copy a riddle, save a clever article. Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you."
5. **THE GIFT OF A GAME.** Most people have at least one game they like to play, whether it is tennis or golf, poker, chess, or checkers. Offer to play your loved one's favorite game with him or her. Even if you lose, you'll be a winner, because together you will have shared an experience.
6. **THE GIFT OF DOING A FAVOR.** Do favors for those special people on your list. Help with the dishes, type up that letter, clean out the basement, mow the lawn, run to the store. This gift is made more valuable when it anticipates a request rather than when it responds to one.
7. **THE GIFT OF CHEERFUL DISPOSITION.** Try to be cheerful around those you love. That means no complaining, no feeling sorry for yourself, no nasty comments, no screaming, no pessimistic predictions. Your gift of cheerfulness will be a precious gift for everyone – including yourself.
8. **THE GIFT OF BEING LEFT ALONE.** There are times in our lives when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Become more sensitive to those times in other's lives. Then respond generously by giving them the gift of solitude, of privacy, of "do not disturb," of being left alone.
9. **THE GIFT OF COMPLIMENT.** Pay your loved ones compliments. A simple "You look good in blue" or "I like your hair that way" or "Good supper, Honey" can be of inestimable value to people who may feel they are being taken for granted.
10. **THE GIFT OF PRAYER.** Let's not forget one of the most immaterial yet valuable gifts we can give: the gift of prayer. Pray for all those people on your Christmas shopping list, and let them know that you pray for them. Praying for someone is another way of saying; "You are so special to me that I often talk to God about you."

Author Unknown