

How can you receive God's gift of **eternal life**? You must admit that you're guilty before God, turn from your sin, and accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. God offers you His gift that cost Him the death of His Son. There is no way you could work for this gift of salvation. *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."*(9) If you trust the Lord Jesus Christ as your **Saviour**, those five things on your list will be yours as part of God's wonderful gift. You can read about these gifts in the Bible in the book of Romans chapter 5 verses 1-11.

Bible references (NKJV): (1) Genesis 1:31 (2) Genesis 3 (3) Romans 5:12 (4) Habakkuk 1:13 (5) Revelation 20:11-15 & 21:8 (6) Romans 6:23 (7) Matthew 1:21 & 2:1-12 (8) Luke 23 & 24 (9) Ephesians 2:8,9

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The Gift List

If you could have anything in the world, what would it be? Surprisingly, when people think carefully about this they come up with similar gift lists. Rich or poor, young or old, male or female, the things people *really* want are not sold in stores. In fact, they are not material things at all. Most people have five basic desires. See if this list includes the gifts you wish you had:

1. Inner peace
2. A certain hope after death
3. Making sense of personal suffering
4. Unconditional love
5. Knowing the secret of happiness

There is Someone who offers you these five gifts. That Person is God Himself, the **Creator** of the universe and the One who made you. When God made this world, everything was very good and in complete harmony with Himself.(1) Then, one day man decided to disobey God by following the advice of the devil.(2) The Bible says to disobey God is **sin**. Have you ever told a lie, stolen something, lusted after things or people, or used God's Name as a curse word? God says that "*through one man sin*

entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned."(3) Ever since that first sin, man has tried to make his life comfortable without God. However, in spite of all our best efforts to create a peaceful world, all around us we still see suffering, crime, war and hate.

Can you honestly say that you have always put God and His interests first in your life? God is absolutely holy and cannot accept one wrongdoing in His presence.(4) If God gave us what we deserved we would be put in hell for our sins.(5) But we don't need to go there, because God has provided a way of escape. "*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*"(6)

Think of it! Even though we don't deserve it, God wants to give us a **gift**. The gift God gave is His Son, **Jesus Christ**. He was born in Bethlehem and came to save us from our sins.(7) He preached the Word of God, healed the sick and then allowed men to nail Him on a cross. There He received God's punishment for the sins we committed and willingly died in our place. Three days later He rose from the grave and showed Himself alive to His followers before He returned to heaven.(8)