



LOS ELEGIDOS MINISTRIES - SATURDAY DECEMBER 28, 2024

The Spirit of giving. . . (2Cor9:7)

"Christmas time is here, happiness and cheer, fun

for all that children call, their favorite time of year. Snowflakes in the air, carols everywhere, olden times, and ancient rhymes, of love and dreams to share. Sleigh bells in the air, beauty everywhere, yultide by the fireside, and joyful memories there. Christmas time is here, familes drawing near, oh, that we could always see, such spirit through the year."

For some reason, this is the song the Lord placed on my heart during Christmas with our kids, indeed a very blessed Christmas, abundantly blessed by our beloved back home. We still have yet to take our kids shopping for new clothes after the 1st of the year, and the blessings continue to rain down on the kids. After listening to the song a zillion times (made famous by A Charlie Brown Christmas), the verse that struck me was, *"Oh, that we could always see, such spirit through the year."*

God has a purpose for everything, and I mean EVERYTHING . . . He reminded me of one Christmas when I was still in elementary school, as if it happened yesteday . . . some things the Lord never lets me forget, and under the Christmas tree that year I found some crayons with a coloring book. I thought to myself, "That's it? Really?"

My mom later explained to me why, though it didn't make much difference to an 8 (7?) year old kid . . . yes, I was disappointed. The night before I had seen my grandmother dishing out silver dollars (yes, the real thing) like hot cakes to several of her grandchildren, just not the ones (me & my brothers) who lived next door.

Which brings us to the spirit of giving - our gracious God gave us the greatest gift of all, His only begotten Son, our Savior, born in a manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes - what an amazing gift from the Lord! The wise men from the east came bearing gifts for the King, gold, frankincense and myrrh.

God is the ultimate "cheerful giver" ("Let each one give [thoughtfully and with purpose] just as he has decided in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver [and delights in the one whose heart is in his gift]." Amp Bible), and He has set the bar very high and wants His children to give freely just as He has given freely of His Son for us, the miracle of salvation.

After each Christmas we ask the kids what they received, or what's their favorite memory for the Christmas holidays - every single kid (20+) last night (just before a special fellowship with our beloved from Arizona) said their favorite memory was *our* Christmas party and all the fun they had, the one our beloved provided for and supplied all the blessings (gifts, food, prizes, games, decorations, tree, lights, etc.).

Sadly, some of our kids mentioned they received nothing for Christmas, not even a nice dinner . . . that is the cruelty of poverty and it breaks my heart, yet I was complaining about crayons, a coloring book, and my grandmother's amazing tamales!

For this reason, we try our very best to spoil our kids (like any parent) each year with what God provides for us - to our beloved back home, thank you for overwhelming our kids with your generosity!

Thank you for blessing them and etching a beautiful memory ("*beauty everywhere*") in their souls as we sang worship songs, celebrated Jesus, and shared what "Christ-Mas" is really all about!

The kids that didn't receive anything (from family) were reminded they still have our shopping spree for new clothes to look forward to after the 1st of the year - thank you for blessing them in the most encouraging way!

Proverbs 11:25 "The generous man (is a source of blessing and) shall be prosperous *and* enriched, and he who waters will himself be watered (reaping the generosity he has sown)." Amp. Bible

"Oh, that we could always see, such spirit through the year."

To our beloved back home, thank you for demonstrating that giving spirit through the entire year, spreading His love and creating "*joyful memories*" for our kids in this impoverished community - you are all **highly favored** by the Lord!

All our love,
Walt y Maribel y Los Elegidos