

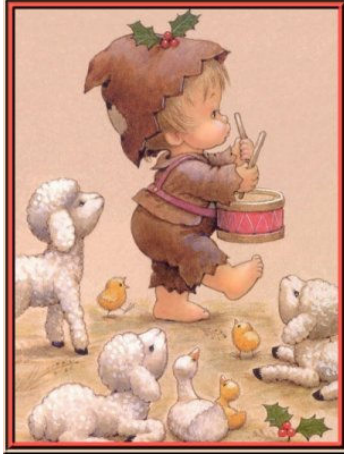
## The Little Drummer Boy and My New Life

In the Christmas story we find the part about the wise men who saw a star in the distance and went on a journey because they were convinced that a king had been born and they wanted to honour him. One of the ways they chose to show their respect and worship was to bring gifts. They brought expensive gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Before they set off on their journey, Jesus himself traveled a long journey. He came from heaven to earth to let you and I know that He wants to honour the value and purpose of our lives and that He wants to live in loving relationship with us. Jesus brought a gift with Him for us - His own life. He seemed to be a pretty small and vulnerable gift when He came as a baby born in a stable, yet in God's time and way He grew to show us that He was, in fact, the powerful Saviour of the world. When we receive Jesus into our lives, He becomes new life in us and gives us a wonderful new and living relationship with God, our Creator and our Father.

Not only do we get new life for ourselves, but we get gifts to give away to others. Jesus promises to live in us and to fill our lives with the power of the Holy Spirit. As the Spirit lives in us He gives us gifts, ***"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men and women."*** (From 1 Corinthians 12) God fills our lives with abilities and talents, plans and understandings that allow us to make a positive and joyful difference to our circumstances and all the people in them. Christmas is a great time to remember that life is about sharing - both giving

and receiving. To share a gift we have to acknowledge that we have one.



One of my favorite Christmas songs is "The Little Drummer Boy" because in spite of being a little guy with not very much, he "gets it." He wants to do something for the new king but initially, doesn't know how. He's not a rich wise man. He doesn't have anything even close to gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The little guy thinks and he realizes that while he may not have an expensive present to give to Jesus, He can play his drum for him. And so he does and as the song goes, "The ox and lamb kept time ... I played my drum for Him .... I played my best for Him ...".

From what he had the little drummer boy took a risk, reached out and offered his gift to Jesus. There's recognition when he's done playing that it was a good thing, a lovely gift, and the right thing because the last line of the song says, "Then he (Jesus) smiled at me .... Me and my drum."



One of the wonderful ways we can live in a new way is the leaving behind of our self-centered, self-pitying "poor me" ways. We can live the "gifted" life and bless God and others so that we regularly see and enjoy the "smile" of God. It's not about having a lot of money and influence. It's about receiving, recognizing, and sharing what we have in a desire to bless someone else.

What have we received from God? God wants to give us new life. Have we received it? If not, why not now? When Jesus comes to live in us He fills us with good gifts. What gifts do I have? What abilities? What time? In what small or large ways can I offer something to another person that will bring a smile to their face because their heart has been touched? What gifts of thankfulness and worship will I offer to Jesus this Christmas season to acknowledge who He is - the real King?