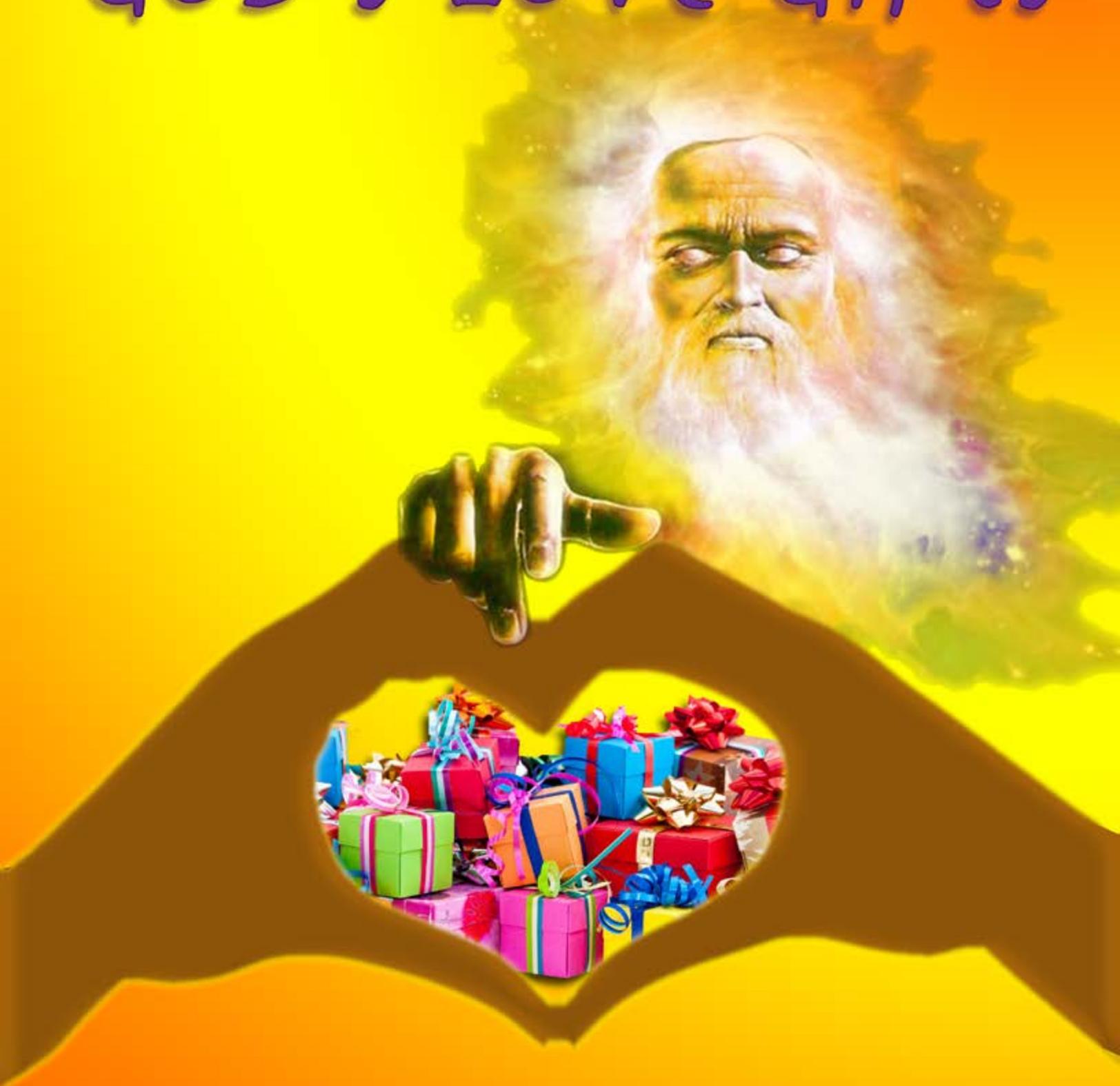


GOD'S LOVE GIFTS



BY JON DRURY

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I have been created far inferior to others. The thought came as a shock in high school.

The implication rocked me. *God loves me less than others.*

My school idolized sports stars and leaders. I developed slowly, performed poorly in classes, and stumbled around the sports field. I did not know why God loved me less but concluded He did. When I evaluated my gifts, abilities, and achievements against those of others, I came up short.

God giving gifts is like the man who entrusted resources to his servants before going on a trip.

... it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. (Matt: 25:14 NIV)

In contrast to my narrow myopic view of God's gifting, the Lord gives gifts to all His children:

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When he ascended on high he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." (Eph. 4:7-8 NIV)

No believer has been left off God's gift list.

When I served in Vietnam for a year, my wife Beverly saved her meager resources to send me a portrait of herself. With a big brunette wave and brown eyes, she and the picture were a knockout and the centerpiece of my small room. It was her love gift. Abilities God gives to us are His love gift.

One of the reasons He has given gifts is to enable us to serve and build others.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ . . . (1 Peter 4:10-11a NIV)

But another reason He gives is to bless us, recipients of the gifts. He delights to bless us with enjoyment and pleasure in serving God as he enables us. We revel in God's gift of fulfillment as we serve.

Yet a third reason God gifts us is to build the Church to reach a lost world.

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Eph. 4:16

Sometimes we use our gifts hesitantly, painfully aware of our limitations. Early in my Christian life I taught 4th grade boys in Sunday School. The boys were restless and paid little attention. When I returned to the church many years later I was amazed to find one of my boys, now an adult, loving God and serving as a talented professional on the staff of the church.

Despite my hesitancy God had used me to enrich a life, and bring glory to His Name.



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Jon Drury Spirit Driven Author

Jon is a former Air Force pilot and pastor, he has also been writing for 25 years. He has published over 400 pieces, 200 of them devotionals, and nearly 150 articles. His book *Lord, I Feel So Small*, available from Amazon, tackles the topic of Satan's lie of smallness that keeps us from God's gifting and call. He is the former director of the Christian Writers Seminar, now West Coast Christian Writers, and now directs Vancouver Christian Writers critique group.

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