

A Gift For The New Year

As the year 2010 begins, many of us have already started or at least talked about our New Year's resolutions. January is often the month in which we are committed to making changes because it is a brand new year. After reading the book, *The Ultimate Gift* written by Jim Stovall, I am inspired to make a resolution to treat each day of the year as a "Gift." At the end of this year, my goal is to know I have lived each day to the fullest.

The following are the "gifts" Jim Stovall identifies in his novel.

I. Gift of Friends

"It is a wealthy person indeed, who calculates riches not in gold but in friends."

II. Gift of Learning

"Education is a lifelong journey whose destination expands as you travel." Education not only involves academics, but involves having a curiosity and openness to learn everything possible about self, others and the world.

III. Gift of Problems

Problems can only be avoided by exercising good judgment. Good judgment can only be gained by exercising life problems."

IV. Gift of Family

"Some people are born into wonderful families. Others have to find or create them. Being a member of a family is a priceless privilege which costs nothing but love."

V. Gift of Laughter

"Laughter is good medicine for the soul. Our world is desperately in need of more medicine."

VI. Gift of Dreams

"Faith is all the dreamers need to see into the future."

VII. Gift of Giving

"The only way you can truly get more out of life for yourself is to give more of yourself away."

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VIII. Gift of Gratitude

"In those times when we yearn to have more in our lives, we should dwell on the things we already have. In doing so, we will often find that our lives are already full to overflowing."

IX. Gift of a Day

"Life at its essence boils down to one day at a time. Today is the day!"

X. Gift of Love

"Love is a treasure for which we can never pay. The only way we keep it is to give it away."

At the end of life, a person will only be remembered by the impact she or he has had on others.