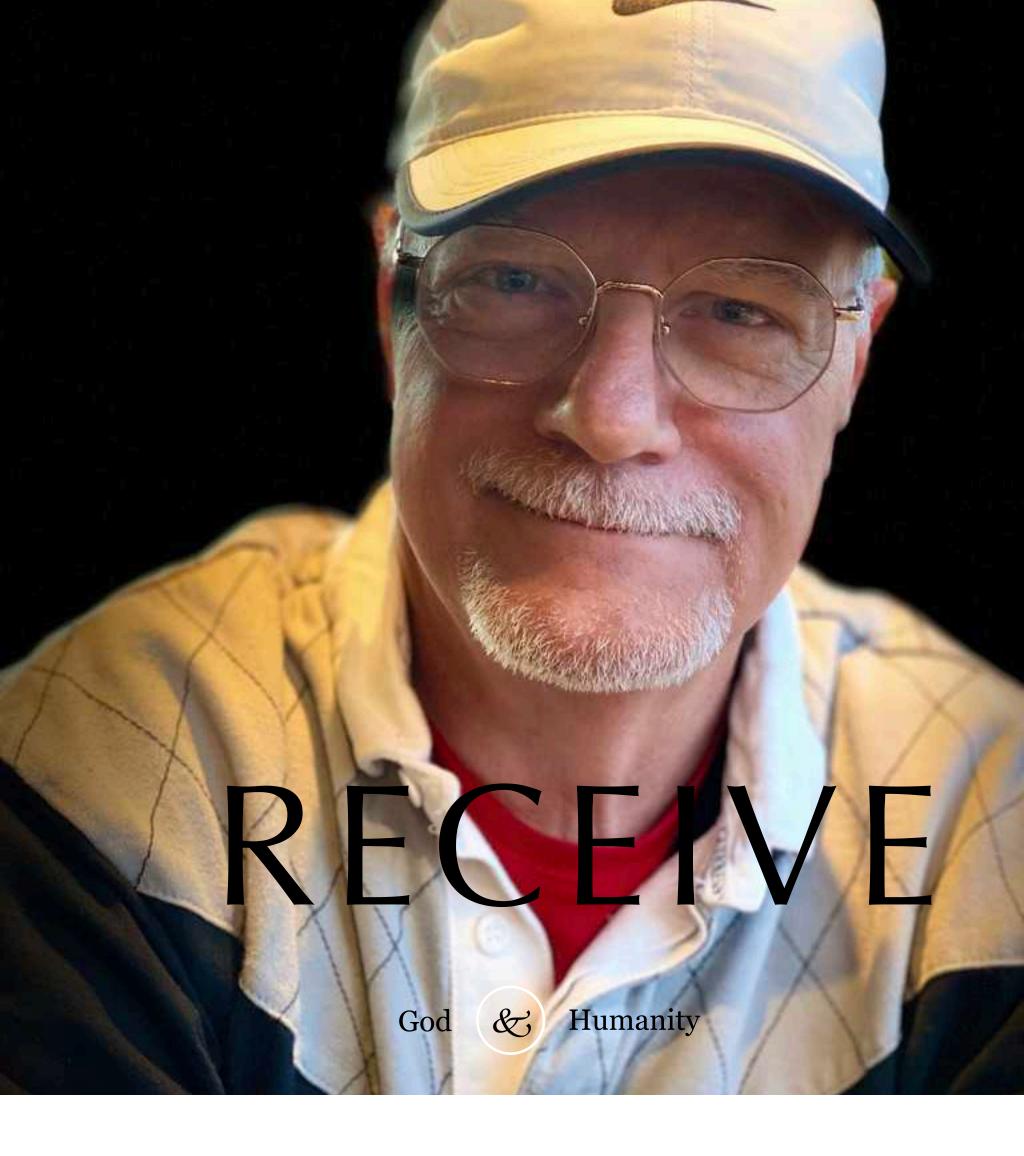


RECEIVE





From the desk of your friend in Christ Jesus,







RECEIVE

the gift, God

Celebrate God in the gift.

"He shall RECEIVE the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation."

(Psalm 24:5 NASB emphasis mine)

There is no RECEIVE'n apart from a gift'n.

Once upon a time a family of twelve including the parents and grandparents lived around a seven palm tree oasis deep in an unexplored area of the desert. The oldest child, Makala just turned 18 cycles old. She, like the rest of the clan, had no idea what lay beyond the dunes. So, with youthful bravado, sheepskin full of water, bow and arrows, and her custom high sided sandals, she set out exploring toward the rising sun.

Three days later, after traversing dune after dune, she peaked a dune to spy what must have been a thousand-palm oasis. The immensity of it dazzled her. With uncontainable excitement and a huge dose of disbelief she ventured toward the same. While descending the last dune she noticed a male figure. Well, it looked like her grandfather's and father's and brother's dress and walk. Of course, she was shocked, for she and her family thought they were all who lived on planet earth.



EVERY GIFT GIVE HAS A GIVER.

Evener gift given is meant to be RECEIVEd.

As the figure approached, she noticed a peaceful countenance upon a man who was not much older than she.

Now, no more than 20 feet apart, he stopped and fixed his gaze upon her. Makala, both curious and frightened, drew a few feet closer.

"Hello." he broke the silence. "Hello." she replied.

With no more introductions or social graces he continued.

"I have a strange story to tell you. I once was dead for three days; so dead I was put in a tomb."

Makala knew about tombs. Then he continued.

"My father raised me from the dead never to die again."

She was shocked, of course.

"My father then told me to tell everyone that if they trust what I say next, it will be their experience as well. What I mean is, father will raise you from the dead to never die again."

Strangely, he did not wait for an reply, but turned and walked away.

Makala paused to ponder what he had proclaimed, and then out loud, but to herself said, 'Yes! Sure. Why not?', then eagerly ventured down to the oasis for refreshment and hopefully some fresh fish.

That's RECEIVE'n.

Of course, it was no sweat off her nose to trust she would be raised from the dead. It would or would not happen. It was out of her hands.

Then concerning us, we might work hard to send ourselves to early



graves, but we have no power to get ourselves out of the grave early or late. It is good to know what you can or cannot do. It is sort of like finding the wisdom which we find expressed in this famous prayer for serenity.

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference.

In practice, this RECEIVE'n comes down to trusting someone other than ourselves. We simply trust they can and will do what they have promised.

"But as many as RECEIVE Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,"

(John 1:12 NASB77 emphasis mine)

No need to fuss just because the one we trust has the name of Jesus. For centuries many have wanted us to trust Buddha, Moloch, Baal, Ashtaroth, Krishna, Allah, and even a Jehovah without His Messiah.

But the message we pass on to you is that you can RECEIVE Jesus's promise, its no sweat of your nose.