

Rewarding God

*I will be a Father to you, and
you will be my sons and daughters,
says the Lord Almighty.
(2 Corinthians 6:18, NIV)*

Did one of God's plans ever seem ridiculous to you? Here's an example:

We were living totally blind and deaf to God, desperately wanting our own way, totally selfish, running from his blessings. But investing himself without reserve, He saved us, called us, and nurtured faith within us. At the cost of His life, He completely forgave and fully cleansed us. He put His Spirit and His own breath within us. And in spite of our numerous weaknesses, inconsistencies, and almost incessant failures, He somehow stays with us, works in us, and finally, after a lifetime of blessings, brings us to live forever in His presence.

Then, after all that, He rewards us - as if we had ever done anything worth rewarding! Now that is profoundly ridiculous!

But perhaps more ridiculous is the idea that we could ever reward God or enrich Him in any way.

As His children, are there any ways in which we can reward God?

How could your children best reward you? We joke about them becoming wealthy and supporting us, but that's not the kind of thanks or satisfaction we want from our kids. What could your kids do? How could they bring you pleasure?

Maybe these same rewards would please our Heavenly Father.

1. Your children could willingly spend special times with you. As parents, we want to enjoy their company and share their lives.
2. Simple, sincere expressions of love and appreciation mean a lot. Children take so much for granted. How gratifying it is to see them realize how much you love them and do for them and take the initiative to thank you.
3. What a pleasure it would be for them to do what they are asked to do, willingly and without complaint. We would consider it an expression of trust, goodwill, and submission.
4. The greatest reward would be to see them mature into responsible adults, growing beyond their childish self-centeredness. We long for them to give their lives for

something worthwhile, to find pleasure in serving others, not just themselves. What could possibly bring a parent more satisfaction than that?

Would you like to reward your Heavenly Father for all He's done? Read back through the list above and decide today how you will show Your love for Him. Like any parent, He's waiting to hear from you.

Hymn: [Come, Children, Come](#)

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