

## GIFTS AND GIVING

I learned an interesting lesson from First Nations people about giving. People of the First Nations are extremely generous. Yet there is something unique about the way they give.

**First**, the gift is invariably something valued by the giver, and it is likely to have a significance or meaning.

**Second**, the giver is always giving something of himself/herself in the gift.

**Thirdly**, the gift, though given freely, in some sense still belongs to the giver. If it is not valued or used it can be taken back.

**Fourthly**, how the gift is used reflects not only on recipient, but also on the giver.

This is an illustration of God and of the gifts God gives.

God's gifts are valuable and there is something of God in every gift. God's gifts are freely given, at the same time they still belong to God, and can be reclaimed if not valued and used.

The way I use God's gifts reflects not only on me, but also on God.

Ephesians 4 says, "**he gave gifts....**". It goes on to say the gifts were "**that some should be apostles, some prophets, some pastors and teacher, to equip God's people for work in God's service**"

Imagine that! We are God's gifts to one another and to the Church. We are of worth, and God is to be found in each of the gifts. We do not possess the gift; it is still God's gift. My way of using the gift reflects not only on me, but also on God whose gift I am.