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My Greatest Gift

A message given on the day with the shortest period of daylight
when the earth reaches its maximum tilt away from the sun.

Today and always, Jesus is the Light of the world!

December 20, 2022

The Greatest Gift anyone ever gave me was my new birth. It was given to me by my Father. I know I had to receive it, but I don't remember receiving it. I just remember Him reaching out His hand into my darkness and touching me with a light so bright, I felt like I was swimming in a huge ocean of love, joy, and wholeness. I was completely new. It was like the words in a song – It was a "holy collision." It was like the words that fell from Mary's lips in *The Chosen* movie series – "I was one way, and now I am completely different, and the only thing in between was Him." The only hunger I felt was for His Word. I craved Him. I prayed, "Tell me about You, Lord. Tell me what to do, how to live, how to be, how to love You."

Do you remember when the Spirit of the Living God collided with you?...when you were walking along in blindness and all of a sudden you could see? And you didn't even know you had been blind? Do you remember when you were fed, and you didn't even know you had been starving to death? Jesus, who I have come to call Yeshua simply because that is what His mother called Him, is the Creator and Lover of all, born in an animal trough surrounded by the bleats of lambs and goats... and He was born in me at about 7:30 p.m. the evening of April 3, 1980.

When was your birthday? Wouldn't it be fun to share the stories of our *collisions* – His birth in us – to celebrate His birth? If these words are foreign to you, seek Him for His Word promises that when you do, you will find Him (Jeremiah 29:13), and His Spirit will be poured out upon and in you (Joel 2:28). He will well up in you as a spring to everlasting life (John 4:13-14). Receive His Gift (John 1:12-14). He is *The Life*. He is *The Way*. He is *The Truth*. ((John 14:6) He is *The Savior*.

I woke up with this morning with this song in my heart – Annie Herring's *Wonder*:

Oh, the joy that filled my soul
The moment I was made whole
God of wonder, God of might
Reached His hand into the dark night
And found my soul

Ever grateful I will be
To the Lamb who died for me
God of wonder, God of might
Reached His hand into the dark night
And found my soul

God of wonder, God of might
God of wonder
Reached His hand across night
And pulled my soul into the light

Look inside this soul of mine
I was lost, completely blind
God of wonder, God of might
Reached His hand into the dark night
And found my soul

God of wonder, God of might
God of wonder
Reached His hand across the night
And pulled my soul into the light
He reached His hand across the night
And pulled my soul into the light!

Blessings, love, and shalom to you, my friends, as you
celebrate His life!
Beth Ann