

# The Electric Train



Mom and Dad scrimped for months to buy their son Eric, an electric train for Christmas. Not a fancy one, since money was scarce, but a nice one.

Then, just before Christmas, a well-to-do uncle brought a large gift and put it under the tree. Eric could hardly wait to see what was in the box with his name on it. On Christmas morning he eagerly opened the gift. It was a large, fancy electric train, with all the whistles and bells. Wow! Then he opened the gift from his parents. Ho hum. Another electric train but not nearly as extravagant. Guess which one Eric played with most?

Mom and Dad were hurt. Their outlay was more sacrificial than that of his uncle. But all Eric could see was the glamour of an expensive train. The gift from his parents was merely a nice accessory.

Our heavenly Father spends many disappointing Christmases. Amidst the glittering ornaments and flashing Christmas lights, the hurry and hustle of shopping and wrapping and family get-togethers, parties and presents, trees and turkeys—who really cares about His gift?

What gets more attention from us: our Father's gift of life in Jesus Christ or the quickly-wrapped department store gifts from family and friends?



*Gleaned from  
Joyful Heart  
Ministries*

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