

## 7-Step Christmas Program

1. Set a **goal** for Christmas, that answers two questions:
  - i. What does Christmas mean to me?
  - ii. How will I fulfill this meaning?
2. Develop a **plan** identifying the needed steps to get to the goal.
3. Prepare a **budget** showing money and time allocated to get to the plan: the budget should be financed by regular income, not by debt.
4. Make a written **covenant (agreement)** with Jesus to apply precise **guidelines and boundaries** during Christmas (see **7-Point Covenant With Christ**).
5. Get to know and follow the **GAS Principle**
  - i. **G**od owns everything (Psalm 24: 1-2)
  - ii. **A**ccept what you have (Hebrews 13:5)
  - iii. **S**eek first His Kingdom & submit your requests to Him (Matthew 6:33 and Proverbs 19:21)
6. **Before Christmas**, each morning, review your **Christmas Goal, Plan, Budget, Covenant, and the GAS Principle**, and ask the Lord to help you to follow them - **"just do it!"**
7. **After Christmas**, note what you did compared with what you planned to do, then write a new plan and budget for next year that includes what you learned. Start working it in January.



## 7-Point Covenant With Christ

With the help of **Jesus Christ**, I agree to follow these guidelines and boundaries this Christmas, so I glorify Him in all I do:

1. **I will** let all my Christmas and other behaviors glorify Him.
2. **I will** de-clutter and simplify my life to allow more time for Him and for my spouse and children: **I will** pray continually for His guidance.
3. **I will** maximize using my talents, and encourage my children to use theirs, for material gifts that we decide to give to others.
4. **I will** go shopping **ONLY** if I have prepared a list, and a budget for each item on the list.
5. **I will** buy **ONLY** items on the list at or below the budget: **a bargain is something on my list at a price lower than my budget!**
6. **I will** explain to my children the "true" meaning of Christmas: **I will** take them shopping **ONLY** for specific, budgeted items.
7. **I will** use my credit card **ONLY** if cash is in the bank to cover the specific purchase: **I agree that my debts will not increase during the Christmas holidays.**



Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Witnessed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 7-Christmas Gift Ideas

1. Let the "fruit of the spirit" shine through you during "the season", particularly in difficult circumstances: gifts of "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."
2. Invite a lonely person or family to church and to Christmas dinner: be available to them during "the season".
3. Serve a meal at a homeless shelter.
4. Provide warm clothing to persons in the shelter.
5. Write a poem, a story, a play or implement other creative activity; including crafts.
6. **Give** "personal redeemable vouchers" to family and friends.
  - For her birthday, my grandchildren gave my daughter, an envelope with slips for "hugs, make beds, set table" and so on. My daughter "redeems" them by presenting a voucher (such as "set table") to a child, and he or she does what's the voucher.
7. **Give** extra funds -above regular giving- to church, charity, the poor.