



**The Advent Conspiracy: Give More**  
**Pastor Frank A. Thomas**  
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**“And the Word was made flesh and moved into the neighborhood”**

Three principles of Advent Conspiracy – Christmas is a relational event and not a consumer event

- 1) The best gifts celebrate a relationship
- 2) When we make time to be with someone – it is a gift – a relational gift
- 3) God’s answer for the world’s problems has never been material things – he gave a relational gift

The Word was made flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, -- generous inside and out, true from start to finish – Eugene Peterson, *The Message*

The Word – logos in Greek. The spoken word with the emphasis on the meaning conveyed and not just the sound; the expression of personality, authority, and action in communication. God spoke and there was light. The Word of God, the expression of God had creative power and called the universe into being. The Word is the source of all that is visible and antedates the totality of the material world. This cosmic word moved into the neighborhood.

The word neighborhood implies relationship – “It’s a beautiful day in the neighborhood.” The place where we grew up – relationship.

We could see a one of a kind glory – something different about him since the day he moved in – something made his stand out and something made him shine – beams of divine glory darted through the veil of his flesh – the brightness of the father’s glory was in the neighborhood. The glory has two aspects

- 1) Generous inside and out – generous from the inside of himself – not trying to impress anyone—not generous to be political or to see what he could get – but generous inside and out
- 2) True from start to finish – does not start off doing good, and then when no one is looking, he does bad. True when you first give him the job and true when he quits thirty years late – true from start to finish

When we “enter the story,” we move into someone’s neighborhood. And when we bring a relational gift, we are the brightness of the father’s glory. We are generous inside and out and true from start to finish.