HOPE

PEACE

JOY

LOVE

DESPAIR ←————————————→ HOPE

TURMOIL ←————————————→ PEACE

SADNESS ←————————————→ JOY

HATE ←————————————→ LOVE

THE
HEART
OF CHRISTMAS

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights, and shiny ornaments but do not have love, I'm just another decorator.

If I work hard in the kitchen baking Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals, and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime but do not have love, I'm just another cook.

If I work at a soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties, and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse. Love is kind even when harried and tired. Love does not envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens. Love does not yell at the kids to get out of the way but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love does not give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who cannot. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails.

GOD'S LOVE DOES . . . SACRIFICE

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son,"

Jesus CAME, SERVED, LIVED, LOVED, DIED, ROSE, SAT DOWN, WAITS, IS COMING AGAIN

"so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16

THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

GOD'S LOVE DOES . . . ETERNAL FAMILY

Ephesians 1:4 "Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes."

Jesus LOVED, CHOSE, ADOPTED, PAID, SHOWERED, REVEALED, FULFILLED

"1:10 At the right time He will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth."

THE HEART
OF CHRISTMAS

IF GOD LOVES . . .

SHOULDN'T WE?