

Christmas December 18, 2022

“THE REALITIES OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY”

1. Christmas is all about God’s desire to “save us & be with us”.

Matthew 1:21 She (*Mary*) will have a son, & you’re to name Him Jesus, for He’ll save His people from their sins.” 22 All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through His prophet: 23 “Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She’ll give birth to a son & they’ll call Him Immanuel which means ‘God is with us’”

2. Christmas displays the amazing ability of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Matthew 1:20 ...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.”

Luke 1:35 The angel replied (*to Mary*), “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, & the power of the Most High will overshadow you...”

The Christmas story highlights the move of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

A reality of the Christmas story is that by receiving Jesus as Lord, our spirit is made “alive” by the Holy Spirit.

***Christmas reminds us we have the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives
Christmas reminds us the Holy Spirit is everything we need in life.***

The real “Holy Spirit of Christmas” is a living Spirit. He’s a world-invading, wonder-working, devil-stomping, sin-slaying, death-destroying Spirit. Power is His identity & the glory of Jesus His aim.

Though invisible as the wind, He is mighty as a hurricane. He will not stop until Christ is formed in us, So take courage, Church. Christmas means more than Jesus’ coming into the world. Christmas means the Holy Spirit is coming into you.

3. Christmas is about giving, because God is the Great Giver.

John 3:16 For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one & only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

Christmas is God giving His best gift to all people.

Matthew 2:1 TPT Jesus was born in Bethlehem near Jerusalem during the reign of King Herod. After Jesus' birth a group of spiritual priests from the East came to Jerusalem & inquired of the people, "Where's the child who is born king of the Jewish people? We observed His star rising in the sky & we've come to bow before Him in worship."... **2** On their way to Bethlehem, the same star they'd seen in the East suddenly reappeared! Amazed, they watched as it went ahead of them & stopped directly over the place where the child was. **10** And when they saw the star, they were so ecstatic that they shouted & celebrated w/ unrestrained joy. **11** When they came into the house & saw the young child w/ Mary, His mother, they fell to the ground at His feet & worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasure chests full of gifts & presented Him w/ gold, frankincense, & myrrh.

Christmas is about God our Father, who is a giving God.

John 4:9b She said to Jesus, "You're a Jew, & I'm a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?" **10** Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you & who you're speaking to, you'd ask Me, & I'd give you living water." ...**14** ...those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life."

John 10:10 TPT A thief has only one thing in mind - he wants to steal, slaughter, & destroy. But I have come to give you everything in abundance, more than you expect - life in its fulness until you overflow!

All that God has for you is available through Jesus.

James 1:5 AMP If any of you lacks wisdom to guide him through a decision or circumstance, he is to ask of our benevolent God, who gives to everyone generously & w/out rebuke *or* blame & it will be given to him... **17a** Every good thing given & every perfect gift is from above; it comes down from the Father of lights, the Creator & Sustainer of the heavens...

Christmas reminds us that the Great Giving God always provides.

Romans 5:15 There's a great difference between Adam's sin & God's gracious **gift**. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace & His **gift** of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ. 16 The result of God's gracious **gift** is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free **gift** leads to our being made right w/ God, even though we're guilty of many sins. 17 For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace & His **gift** of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin & death through this one man, Jesus Christ.

*He gives us the gift of Life, His Son.
Jesus is all God's gift wrapped up in a person.*

Ephesians 2:8 God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a **gift** from God.

*The grace of God gives the gifts of God; our faith receives them.
Grace gives gifts to all, but not all receive them.*

God knows your need, & His grace has given salvation, healing, abundance to all, but He gives to those who express their faith.

Matthew 7:11 If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask Him.

God has given to you – have you received His gifts?

God displayed His love to us by giving us His Son Jesus & the gift of the Holy Spirit! And the gifts of the Spirit.

*If you're facing a pressing need today, or seeing lack in a certain area, **take heart**. Don't be discouraged. Your Giving God knows all about it & He's more than willing to meet that need because He loves you.*

You can come just as you are to Jesus, He gives unconditionally!

*We believe this is true. We believe this is real. God gave us His Son.
Jesus has given me life, & Jesus has given you life too.*

And, we care & pray for people who are lost, unsaved & unchurched.

Our Christmas Eve services are special events to reach your family, etc.