

*Spirit of Christmas*

Spiritual Challenges & Insights

EMAIL CONTRIBUTIONS & COMMENTS TO:

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**"The Spirit of Christmas"** = Spirit of *Christ* + "mass". "Mass" = *taking in & becoming the very nature of Christ.*

**1. "Christmas is the Best Time of the Year"**

- (a) What about those that find this time difficult? What can we do to make it better for them?
- (b) Christmas is supposed to celebrate Jesus' birthday -- What can we do to make it best for Him?
- (c) The fun things of Christmas -- are they a distraction or part of celebrating His birthday?

**2. "This Baby Boy"** Jesus' Birth in Us -- Part of Christmas? What/Who is actually being formed in us? Born into the world through us?

**3. Don't Save It All – i.e. "love"** Paraphrase of 1 Cor. 13:1-2:

Though I sing with a voice of an angel, with the highest quality and exactness, and have not "cruciform" love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal . . . I am nothing." "Find a way . . . Give love."

**4. Home for the Holidays**

"Abide in me" . . . Be at home with Jesus – Come, enter into your home in Jesus this Christmas season.

Think of what it cost Jesus to be at home in a stable. Even more amazing, what humility it takes for Him to be at home in us.

Make Jesus at home in your whole life throughout the Christmas season.

Do you think Jesus feels at home in your home?

**5. The Prayer**

Read through and/or listen to "The Prayer", and first thinking how this applies to Joseph and Mary and then turning it into a personal prayer, using "I" and "me"; pause after each phrase, contemplating how the thought could apply to your life and listen for the Holy Spirit to speak to you.

**CHOIR:** "Thank you so much for your thoughts re The Prayer. When we take the time

to think this through, and work on your suggestions, what a warm feeling I get, and yes God is indeed watching over and directing us as he did with Mary and Joseph. He has provided all we need, and practice is going extremely well. Many thanks to you also."

### **6. Light of the Stable**

Seek out the meaning of "Hallelujah!". Note that this is a command in Hebrew. How can we obey this command and how often?

### **7. The Spirit of Christmas**

Consider how we can express the Holy Spirit through all the things mentioned in the song "The Spirit of Christmas".

### **8. Shine on Us**

Make the prayers in "Shine on Us" your personal prayers. Note that the Greek verb tense in Bible verses referring to "saved" are often present progressive and mean "are being saved". What are you being saved from? What do you need further to be saved from?

### **9. Christmas Glory Medley**

Meaning of "Glory", "excelsis", "Deo", "Glorious is Thy Name" (Is His name glorious in us?) Ask the Lord to reveal how His glory can be more revealed in you and in the choir as a whole.

### **GENERAL COMMENTS**

**CHOIR:** "My brother Ron, what an outstanding job!! I am so glad you are involved with this special Outreach. In particular I love how you encourage us all to pray and keep Jesus our focal point in all this. Your musical teaching is not too shabby either!! Thank you Ron, God brought you to us for a reason."