

THREE VIRTUES OF CHRISTMAS

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“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.” - Luke 2:14

When I think of Christmas; happiness, gratitude, and hope tumble together and overflow the confines of my heart. Christmas is all about the greatest gift that God has given us – His only begotten Son. As I write this article, I find myself reflecting on three virtues that His birth highlights.

LOVE - I love how our Heavenly Father chose the lineage into which Jesus would be born – a long line of people who were far from perfect. Their presence in His family tree helps us better understand how wonderfully inclusive Christ’s family is - anyone can be a part of it. No guilt or fear or regret can hold us back from being who we are in Christ – which is a new creation. As the Bible tells us, “Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” He welcomes everyone into His family and each of us is unique and precious to Him.

FAITH - Imagine how Mary must have felt when the angel of the Lord appeared to her and told her that she was to conceive a child through the power of the Holy Spirit! What thoughts would have flitted through her mind? Would she have been worried whether Joseph would accept her once he came to know of this? Was she scared, perhaps, as to whether society would condemn her for being with child before marriage? The faith that she had, to surrender to God’s will and say, “Let it be to me according to your word,” is inspiring. And rarely do we get to see a man as just as Joseph, that even before he came to know that the child was conceived of the Holy Spirit, he was mindful to not make his betrothed a public spectacle. When the angel of the Lord appeared to him in his dream, he trusted and obeyed God’s word.

HOPE - The angel’s announcement to the shepherds who were keeping watch over their flock at night, is a ray of hope in the darkness – a sign from God that He has not forgotten His people. The wise men followed the star in the hope that they would get to see and worship the King of the Jews about whom a prophecy had been made years and years ago. Jesus’ birth is the greatest embodiment of hope that mankind could ever have - the hope of a Saviour and King who can save us from our sin and give us the gift of eternal life. And that hope is for both shepherd and wise man, pauper and king, and sinner and saint throughout all generations.

As we celebrate with our loved ones this Christmas, may we embody the three virtues that our Heavenly Father has shown us through the birth of His Son Jesus. Merry Christmas!