

straight from The Heart



THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS OR THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST!

Have you noticed that once a year toward the winter period, something odd happens? People's attitudes go through an annual change. People start talking about peace and good will. They go out of their way to give and forgive. Families get together. They start calling up friends and family members they have not seen throughout the whole year. We call this different atmosphere, "The spirit of Christmas". Many get money however they can just to give out gifts to their loved ones. There sometimes seem to be a competition of who give the best gifts to whom. (Battles are halted for Christmas)

There is a problem with the Christmas spirit however. It seems to pass. The kindness, the generosity, the peace and good will, the warm relationships (which is what we all long for as human beings) start to wear out. What is disappointing about the Christmas spirit is that these things that we all long for and enjoy seem to be ephemeral (temporary). Even those in the battlefield seem to stop the fight, sing the Christmas song and get on with their fight after Christmas.

The spirit of Christmas will produce a truce but no peace. It makes people think of peace and good will. In fact it also makes celebrities (who in many cases have been so self-centred) go to the homeless and feed them a meal, but of course, too strenuous to be continued. It says something about the deepest longings of the human heart. It also says something about the incapacities of the human heart.

The spirit of Christmas needs to be superseded by the Spirit of Christ. We need to exchange the Christmas spirit with the spirit of Christ. There is a big difference between these two.

The Christmas spirit is annual while the Spirit of Christ is eternal.

The Christmas spirit is sentimental while the spirit of Christ is supernatural. The Christmas spirit is a human product, has even become highly commercialised (therefore could be stressful and strenuous) while the spirit of Christ is a divine person (the Holy Spirit is the spirit of Christ). The same person that enabled Mary to do the impossible.

When Christ is born in you the possibilities are boundless. We are not talking about an annual event. We are talking about a perpetual indwelling. We are not talking about something sentimental; we are talking about something utterly supernatural.

The difference becomes obvious. We are thinking not so much of human beings being sentimentally good on an annual basis. We are talking about God in Christ in the person of the Holy Spirit empowering people to be what they are not and to do what they can't. That which is born of you is born of the Holy Spirit. The possibilities are mind boggling.



The Spirit of Christ enables us to gladly come under the kingdom and make ourselves available for service. We are changed when the Spirit of Christ imparts to us the life of the risen Lord, and we begin to accept what it means to live under the kingdom. The Bible described the scene where an angel visited Mary, the mother of Jesus and told her she would become pregnant without knowing a man, she asked questions, baffled and the angel replied in Luke 1 V. 37 "with God nothing shall be impossible." Always remember that. It is according to the divine will.

Also, Mary was not just thinking about the joy of child birth; but the divine assignment which came with that experience. Mary says, "I'll gladly avail myself of all that you're doing. I will be what you want me to be." Think of getting up daily and saying, "Behold the servant of the Lord. Be it unto me according to your word. More than anything else, I want the expression of your life in my life. I make myself available to you with glad anticipation."

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

YEMI ADELEKE

