

# *Preface*

Where is peace on earth that we read about in the Bible? Where is that peace that the angels declared? God's peace is not a universal thing, but it only reigns where men and women will pay the price. The price of peace in our homes, our lives, our nation is absolute surrender to God and His Word. To have absolute surrender to God we must daily read His Word and spend time every day in prayer.

We may not live in a world of peace, but we can have the peace of Jesus in our hearts in spite of circumstances if we draw nigh to God.

“The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is His delight (Proverbs 15:8). Under the old Persian Empire, a few of the nobility were permitted at any time to come before the king, and this was thought to be the highest privilege possessed by mortals. You and I, the people of God, have permission to come before the throne of heaven at any time. We will, and we are encouraged to come there with great boldness.”

Let us together, each day of December, go boldly to our Heavenly Father.

*Dottie Redmond*

## *How Do You Say, "Peace?"*

- At work you say it with a team attitude and in a job well done.
- At home you say it with smiles and affection.
- At church you say it in the words of the tax collector from Scripture, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" (Luke 18:13)
- With enemies you say it in forgiveness.
- With loved ones you also say it in forgiveness.
- In your heart you say it by surrender of all to Jesus Christ.
- In eternity you say it in a phrase: "Father, I'm home."

## *December 1*

*“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,  
and the government will be upon His shoulder.”*

--Isaiah 9:6a

In the above scripture we read the prophecy about the coming Messiah. This scripture was written in a time of great darkness. God promised to send a Light who would shine on everything in the shadow of death. The message of hope was fulfilled in the birth of Christ.

Commit to God whatever burden you have. Don't just cast it aside, put it on His shoulder. Your burden will be lightened, and you will enjoy the holiday season much more. This will allow the light of God's love to shine on you and through you. In doing so the peace of Jesus will be in our hearts.

He is the Prince of Peace. He is our peace.

**Action:** Visit someone who is alone or in a nursing home. Read Isaiah 9:6 to them.

## *December 2*

*“...and His name shall be called Wonderful...”*

--Isaiah 9:6b

Jesus deserves to be called Wonderful for what He has done in the past, what He is doing in the present and for what He shall do in the future. He is exceptional.

This wonderful Jesus can live in your life. When Jesus comes in, something wonderful happens to our lives.

Unfortunately, much of our world celebrates the Christmas season—missing the presence of the wonderful One who is the source of peace and joy and who is the very reason for this season. Peace cannot be found in a bottle or at a party or in lavish gifts. It can only be found in our wonderful Jesus. If you have Jesus you have a friend forever. He will never leave you—never forsake you—and will be with you every moment in your life. It will be one thing to go to Heaven that glorious day, but until then Heaven can be in your heart.

This name “Wonderful” was in this prophetic verse. Let the wonderful name of Jesus ring in your soul.

**Action:** Sing or quote the following song.

His name is Wonderful, His name is Wonderful,  
His name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord;  
He is the mighty King, Master of everything,  
His name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.  
He's the great Shepherd, the Rock of all ages,  
Almighty God is He;  
Bow down before Him, love and adore Him;  
His name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.

CCLI# 181708

## *December 3*

*"...and His name shall be called...Counselor..."*

--Isaiah 9:6b

Jesus will always be by your side. He is truly a Wonderful Counselor and always gives the right advice.

Psalm 1:1 tells us that "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly." Today many things are luring us away from our Counselor Jesus. Often we cannot even trust the counsel of our own hearts. Jeremiah said, "The heart is deceitful" (Jeremiah 17:9). However, in our wonderful Lord we have a counselor who can more than supply our needs.

Our Great Counselor has put His counsel in writing. He has given us sixty-six books containing His wisdom. He is intimately acquainted with the counsels of God from eternity, and He gives counsel to His children. He gives the wisdom from God. That wisdom is ours for the asking. He is the author with the highest credentials. My Counselor came and died for my sins. He knows me yet He loves me.

Are you seeking counsel? Go to the great Counselor.  
There is no one in His league.

He has promised to never leave you or forsake you.  
He keeps every promise He has ever made. He  
always has—He always will.

Millions of dollars are spent on counselors, and  
many times that is necessary. Oh, but we have that  
Wonderful Counselor who ever stands ready to help  
us.

**Action:** Thank God that He is your Wonderful  
Counselor.

## *December 4*

*"...and His name shall be called...Mighty God..."*

--Isaiah 9:6b

Our Mighty God came into the world to give us courage for living. Jesus is God Himself. Let us think about some of His attributes:

- ◆ God is sovereign.      ◆ God is greatness.
- ◆ God is powerful.      ◆ God is all-knowing.
- ◆ God is goodness.      ◆ God is patience.
- ◆ God is peace.      ◆ God is love.
- ◆ God is grace.      ◆ God is knowledge.
- ◆ God is holy.      ◆ God is wisdom.

Is it any wonder that Isaiah referred to Him as Mighty God. He is more than our mind can conceive. To think He knows us and He loves us, and this Mighty God is our God.

You could add to the list of things God is. The list truly could go on and on.

**Action:** Now let's spend time praising God for who He is.



## *December 5*

*"...and His name shall be called...Everlasting  
Father..."* --Isaiah 9:6b

In the four gospels we find more than 150 references to God as our Father. Jesus taught us to direct our prayers to "Our Father in Heaven." He is not only, as a Father, willing to help us, but also as a Heavenly Father, able to do great things for us more than we can ask or think.

Our Heavenly Father's attention to you is limitless, watching over His child with loving provision and concern. As Father, his name signifies protection. The same God who created and rules over the universe cares for you as a Father does for his son. Augustine once said, "He loves us every one as though there were but one of us to love."

In our world there are many boys and girls who have no father image in their homes. If they cannot relate to an earthly father, it is more difficult to relate to a Heavenly Father. I have had no problem relating to my Heavenly Father because I had an earthly father who loved his Heavenly Father. That legacy was passed on to me. My earthly father is now with my Heavenly Father. I thank God that he pointed me to the Everlasting Father.

**Action:** This is for men. Pray about teaching in our Preschool, Children, or Youth divisions. You could be a role model to some boy or girl. God uses godly men to point children to Him.

## *December 6*

*“...and His name shall be called...Prince of Peace...”* --Isaiah 9:6b

When I became a Christian at 9 years of age, it never occurred to me that there would be storms in my life. I really thought everything would be peaches and cream. We all know that is not true. That is reserved for Heaven. We will all, at one time or another, have storms in our lives. The great thing is that He gives calmness in life's storms. Jesus is the very embodiment of peace. His government is one of justice and peace.

Peace is the wonderful sense of calmness and well-being that fills our lives no matter how difficult things might be.

The influence of the Prince of Peace can grow as we allow God to control every part of our lives. If we try to maintain control on our own, the less peace we will have in our hearts. When we truly trust God in every situation of our lives, His peace will stand guard over our lives.

**Action:** Go to the Father, turn anything that is taking your peace over to Him, and allow the Prince of Peace to shower you with His perfect peace.

## *December 7*

*“Mary said, ‘I am the Lord’s servant, and I am willing to do whatever he wants...’”* --Luke 1:38

Mary willingly and lovingly obeyed God. We don’t know her exact age, but she must have been around 16 years of age. A very important assignment for this young girl. She believed God, she trusted God, and she was obedient to God. That is why God gave her this wonderful blessing. For God to bless us we must be blessable.

Mary praised and glorified God for what He was going to do for the world through her. She recognized and accepted the gift God had given her. If she had denied this position, she would have been throwing God’s blessing back at Him. Don’t deny the gifts God has given you. Take them, use them to the glory of God.

Mary’s submission is a lovely thing. “I am the Lord’s servant, and I am willing to do whatever He wants.” Mary had learned to forget the world’s commonest prayer—“Thy will be changed.”—and to pray the world’s greatest prayer—“Thy will be done.”

**Action:** Go to God and simply pray, “Thy will be done in my life.”

## *December 8*

*“And Mary said: ‘My soul magnifies the Lord.’”*

--Luke 1:46

When Mary became with child she began to magnify the Lord. She began to praise Him. The Word of God was living within her so this was a natural thing to do. Is the Word of God living within you? When the Word of God enters your heart, the manifestation shall come forth.

Maybe there are some difficult things in your life that you really don't understand. This was Mary's situation yet she praised and magnified the Lord. Keep praising God because when you get to a certain point in praise, you will no longer have to try to get things to happen; they just will. Because the Word of God is at work within you, you know it is not always going to be like this.

Once the Word of God is living within you, you won't have to convince people that it is there. It will be evident.

God majors in taking things from mediocre to magnificent.

**Action:** Let God's Word work within you with supernatural power and energy, and you will have the true spirit of Christmas.

## *December 9*

*“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows:  
After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph,  
before they came together, she was found with child  
of the Holy Spirit.”*      --Matthew 1:18 (NKJ)

Joseph was faced with a difficult choice after discovering that Mary was with child. He loved her very much but realized taking Mary as his wife could be humiliating. He chose to obey God’s command to marry her.

Perhaps Joseph thought he had two choices: to break the engagement or have her stoned (1:20-23). But God had a third option—marry her. In view of the circumstances Joseph had not thought of that option. God often shows us there are more options available than we think. Only God’s guidance helped him make the right decision. When our decisions affect the lives of others, we must always seek God’s wisdom.

**Action:** Attend church regularly and become aware of the blessings and presence of God.

## *December 10*

*“And she will bring forth a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”*  
--Matthew 1:21

Just sit and think of the name of Jesus. What does His name really mean to you? The answer to this question will determine if Jesus really is the heart of your holidays.

“Jesus is the sweetest name I know,  
And He’s just the same as His lovely name,  
And that’s the reason why I love Him so;  
O Jesus is the sweetest name I know.”

CCLI # 181708

The angels sang this song to me when my Daddy moved to heaven. Many times I just sit and meditate or sing that song. I can truly say, “Jesus is the sweetest name I know.”

**Action:** Talk about the real meaning of this Christmas Season with your family and friends.

## *December 11*

*“...Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king...”*                      --Matthew 2:1

Old Testament prophecy was fulfilled in the above verse. In Genesis God promised Abraham that through his seed all of the earth would be blessed. God promised Isaiah that a Child would be born, a Son would be given, and the government would rest upon His shoulders. His name would be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Down through the ages believers had been looking for the promised Messiah. At last Jesus was born in Bethlehem. God always keeps His promises.

**Action:** Look for the largest star in the sky tonight. I call it the Christmas Star. Thank God for Jesus.



## *December 12*

*"Let us now go to Bethlehem..."* --Luke 2:15b

When the angels appeared to the shepherds they went to Bethlehem to see Jesus.

Oswald Chambers says, "Have I allowed my personal human life to become a Bethlehem for the Son of God? I cannot enter the realm of the kingdom of God unless I am born again from above by birth totally unlike "physical birth." The evidence of the new birth is that I yield myself so completely to God that Christ is formed in me. And once Christ is formed in me, His nature immediately begins to work in me."

So, my friend, if Christ is born in you, Bethlehem is in your heart.

### **It Isn't Far To Bethlehem**

It isn't far to Bethlehem  
Where lies the newborn King;  
It isn't far to Bethlehem  
where holy angels sing.

The wise men saw the guiding star  
That led them where He lay;  
The shepherds heard the heavenly song  
That brought the better day.

We too may go to Bethlehem  
And find the Savior Child;  
We too may hear the angels sing  
Their hymns of mercy mild.

Our hearts are God's new Bethlehem  
Where Christ is born anew;  
It isn't far to Bethlehem  
If He is born in you.

**Action:** Say something nice about four people  
today.

## *December 13*

*“And, behold there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.”*

--Luke 2:25-26

When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to be dedicated to God, they met Simeon. He said Jesus was a gift from God; he recognized Him as the Messiah and said He would be a light for the entire world. (Mary thought Jesus had come to save his own people.) It is made very clear that Jesus came to save all who believe.

Simeon prophesied that with Jesus there would be no neutral ground: people would either joyfully accept Him or totally reject Him. Mary would be grieved by the wide-spread rejection He would face.

Although Simeon was very old he still hoped to see the Messiah. Led by the Holy Spirit, he was among the first to bear witness to Jesus. He could now die in peace because he had seen the Messiah.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face;  
And the things of earth will grow strangely  
dim  
In the light of His glory and grace.  
CCLI # 181708

**Action:** Read the Christmas Story from Luke 2.

## December 14

*“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?  
For we have seen His star in the East and have come  
to worship Him.”* --Matthew 2:2

There were many responses to the birth of Jesus:

1. Creation responded by placing a miraculous star in the heavens to tell the world a King had been born.
2. The Gentiles responded by worshiping Him and bringing Him gifts. Jesus came to save the Gentiles as well as the Jews. The Wise Men studied the heavens. The star led them to the scriptures, and the scriptures led them to the Savior (Psalm 19).
3. Herod responded with fear and deception.
4. The angels responded by praising and glorifying God.

**Action:** List ways that you respond to Jesus.

---

---

---

## *December 15*

*"...they realized that they had been with Jesus..."*

--Acts 4:13b

My prayer for each of you is that Jesus will truly bring peace to your heart and that He will also bring peace on earth. There is so much going on right now: shopping, decorating, cooking, going, doing, and on and on the list goes.

The hardest thing to give is "in." Sometimes we have to "Give In" and realize we can't do everything to perfection. These things are not bad within themselves, but if they rob us of our time with Jesus then they become bad.

If we spend time with Jesus, it will be obvious. It is the glow within that creates beauty. That comes from Jesus. People are like stained glass windows; they sparkle like crystal in the sun. At night they continue to sparkle only if there is light within.

Jesus is the light within. Stick to Him!!

**Action:** Invite someone to church.

## December 16

*“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*                      --II Peter 1:5-8

I like sticking to Jesus. I like the results it produces. It produces godliness, brotherly kindness, and love.

Remember Moses sparkled with God’s love when he had spent time with Him (Exodus 34:28-35). He carried his own credentials in his very countenance. When he came down from the mountain the skin of his face just beamed, and he didn’t even know it. He wasn’t aware of it—it just was!!

This is a gift you can give to all you come in contact with this Christmas Season—your family, your friends, even strangers you come in contact with in the marketplace or wherever you happen to be. You can be a reflection of God’s love. That is the greatest gift you can give anyone.

**Action:** Take five minutes to be still and know that God is God. In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.

## *December 17*

*“Therefore, be on the alert for you do not know which day your Lord is coming...be ready for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.”* --Luke 24:42 & 44

Not even the angels in heaven know when the return of Jesus will take place. If they don't even know then surely we don't, but I believe we all feel that it won't be too long until the Father turns to the Son and says, "Son, go and bring my children home." I anxiously anticipate that day.

I am reminded of an old favorite song, *Shall We Gather At The River*:

Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
The beautiful, the beautiful river;  
Gather with the saints at the river  
That flows by the throne of God.

If you are unhappy today or if your world is awry, sing about the river. As I sing this song, my heart is flooded with peace.

Will *you* be at the river? I will be looking for you.

**Action:** Witness to someone who needs Jesus.



## *December 18*

*“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light...”* --Isaiah 9:2a

Jesus makes such a difference in our lives. He is the difference between light and darkness, between life and death, between joy and sorrow.

For the past few Sundays as we have driven to church around 7:30 am the sun has produced such beautiful light. The clouds have looked as if they were outlined in gold. As Charles and I have driven toward the beauty of the light in the eastern sky I could hardly take my eyes off the light. I've commented to Charles that this could just be the day that Jesus returns for us. Many times during the week I find myself looking up into the heavens. As we said yesterday, the Bible tells us not even the angels in Heaven know when the second coming will take place. It gives me great joy and peace as I look for Him and anticipate His return. My theology is simple—He is coming, and I am going with Him. I don't know the details, but I know the light of His presence will be overwhelmingly beautiful, and we will be with that Light for all eternity.

**Action:** Look up into the heavens today and think this could be the day Jesus returns. Are you ready?

## *December 19*

*"...seek peace and pursue it."* --Psalm 34:14b

David encouraged others to trust and fear God. He feared God and for the most part he chose the way of goodness and peace.

Somehow we think that peace should come to us with no effort. That is not the case or at least that hasn't been the case in my life. David explained that we are to work hard at living in peace with everyone. To have peace we cannot be argumentative and contentious. We must extend tenderness and kindness to our worst enemies. This cannot be done in our strength, but it can be done triumphantly by the strength of God.

It can be found in the following old hymn:

There is a place of full release,  
Near to the heart of God,  
A place where all is joy and peace,  
Near to the heart of God.  
O Jesus, blest Redeemer,  
Sent from the heart of God,  
Hold us who wait before Thee  
Near to the heart of God.

**Action:** Ask Jesus to give peace in your heart. It will give life to your body.

## *December 20*

*"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."*

--Psalm 23:1

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm has been read by good Christians for years and will continue to be while the world stands. This Psalm brings pleasure, comfort, and peace to your heart each time you read it.

David wrote out of his own experience because he had spent his early years caring for sheep. Sheep are completely dependent on the shepherd for provision, guidance, and protection. He knew firsthand the cares and tender affections of a good shepherd toward his flock. He remembered they needed a shepherd, and he ventured his life to rescue a lamb. This is a beautiful illustration of God's care for His people.

In John 10:11 we read, "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep." We must know the Shepherd's voice and follow Him.

We must remember in these present days of uncertainty we cannot live in fear, but put our trust in the Shepherd to take care of us.

When David considered that God was his Shepherd, he could boldly say, “I shall not want.”

If you can say, “The Lord is my Shepherd,” you can also say, “I shall not want.” This, my friend, will bring peace to your heart.

**Action:** Read the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm three times today and think about your blessings.

## *December 21*

*“The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.”* --Numbers 6:24-26

I have been blessed as I've studied these verses. The people were about to enter into war, yet God told them how to have peace. They were given His blessing which was supposed to:

1. Bless and protect
2. Radiate with joy as God's face shone upon them
3. Be gracious, merciful, and compassionate
4. Show favor
5. Give peace

When you ask God to bless others or yourself, you are asking Him to do these five things. It will also demonstrate love, encourage others, and provide a model of caring to those who watch.

**Action:** Visit someone who lives alone or in a nursing home.

## *December 22*

*“The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord blesses His people with peace.”* --Psalm 29:11

There are many, many promises throughout the Bible. We all know of God’s faithfulness in keeping every promise He makes.

Many times we make promises and as time goes on we neglect to keep our promises. Not so with God.

This is a sublime promise that God would bless us with peace. We look around and don’t see too much evidence of peace. God can fill your heart with His peace regardless of any circumstance.

Reach out to God for the peace you need in your heart. Peace is a blessing of inestimable value, which God desires for all of His people.

**Action:** Send a note to brighten someone’s day.

## *December 23*

*“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem...”* --Psalm 122:6a

I began reading through the book of Psalms every month when I was about 12 years old. Therefore, I have read this verse many times. This verse had never registered in my mind that I should pray for peace in Jerusalem until I visited Israel in March 1985. From that day until now that verse has been in my Quiet Time Notebook, and I pray that on Wednesdays.

Not until September 11 did I fully understand how Israel and many parts of our world live. As Americans we got a first-hand glimpse and a small taste of what it means to live in a land that is not totally at peace.

Jesus said there would be unrest in Israel until He came again, because Israel will never know any real peace until the Prince of Peace returns. However, we are instructed to pray for the peace of Jerusalem so our prayers can help facilitate the events of His return.

Soon Jesus will make His triumphal entry through the Eastern Gate His returning to the earth. Then we will have perfect peace.

**Action:** Pray for peace in Jerusalem, in our country, and in our world.

## *December 24*

*“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee.”* --Isaiah 26:3

There is something we have to do to obtain the perfect peace that we read about in the above verse and that is to keep our mind stayed on God.

God gives to us that peace that the world cannot give if our minds are fixed on doing the will of God. In doing God's will and focusing on Him, we are delivered from fear of all enemies. Fear is a great thief of peace.

I recently read the often quoted words of Franklin Roosevelt, “We have nothing to fear but fear itself.” These words remind us of this verse, “There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear” (I John 4:18). That is the source of inner peace.

Through the mercies of Jesus we may live in peace if we keep our minds focused on Him at all times.

**Action:** Listen for God's love and forgiveness and avail yourself to receive the Christmas Eve Lord's Supper.



## *December 25*

*“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we were healed.”*

--Isaiah 53:5

Isn't it just like God to give an Old Testament person understanding about Christ dying for our sins, actually taking our sins as His own before they even happened? The sacrifice suggests the idea, but it is one thing to kill a lamb but something quite different to think of God's Son as the Lamb. God just pulled across the curtain of time to let the people of Isaiah's day look ahead to the suffering of the future Messiah and the resulting forgiveness of our sins by His stripes.

Jesus was so sweet in Bethlehem's manger, but aren't we grateful that He did not remain a baby but grew up to fulfill God's plan for His life.

**Action:** Thank God that Jesus went from the cradle to the cross and then He arose and now sits at the right hand of the Father ever interceding for you.

## December 26

*“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!’”*  
--Luke 2:13-14

Where are the peace and good will that the angels sang about? But the big question should be, **“Where is the glory to God?”** Before we can have peace and good will, we must give glory to God.

Does God get glory in America? Prior to September 11, I believe the answer would have been *not much*. Since that day there has been a turning to God that, if it continues, could bring peace and good will to our country.

When we give glory to God, then peace is possible—not one minute sooner.

**Action:** Make a commitment to God that your life will glorify Him.

## *December 27*

*“Peace I leave you; My peace I give to you, not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”*      --John 14:27

When Jesus Christ left this world He had no silver or gold to leave to His poor disciples. He left them that which was infinitely better, His peace. This legacy was left to them and their successors and all true Christians in all ages. That is for you.

He reminds us that His peace is not like that the world gives. World peace is usually defined as the absence of conflict. The peace that Jesus gives is confident assurance in any circumstance. With this kind of peace, we have no need to fear the present or the future.

If your life is full of stress and worry, let God fill you with His true peace. Commune daily with the Father, and you will experience His peace.

Why should our hearts be troubled? Our God reigns, and all is well.

**Action:** Thank God that He is still in control of our world.



## *December 29*

*“Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.  
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”*

--Matthew 6:9-10

For us to pray and tell God that we want His will down here on earth is really a tremendous prayer. The disciples knew they couldn't change the whole Roman Empire, but they knew it was possible for them to change the spheres of influence given to them by God.

“Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Is there anything contrary to God's will in heaven? What would happen if every Christian really prayed for and brought God's will into their own lives with nothing contrary to God's will? How different would be our homes, our lives, our churches, our city, our state, our country, our nation.

Praise God! He can do exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20).

**Action:** Pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13).

## *December 30*

*“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.”*

--Matthew 5:9

This verse tells us that the blessing is on the peacemakers, not necessarily on the peace-lovers.

One of the highest tasks we can perform is to establish right relationships between people. There are people who seem to be storm centers. Whether they are involved in quarrels themselves or the cause of quarrels between others, they are troublemakers. There are people like that everywhere, and such people are doing the devil's work. On the other hand—thank God—there are people in whose presence bitterness cannot live, people who bridge the gulfs, heal the breaches, and sweeten the bitterness. Such people are doing a godlike work, for it is the purpose of God to bring peace between mankind and Himself and between people. The people who divide people are doing the devil's work; the person who unites people is doing God's work.

**Action:** Let us commit to being a peacemaker every day during 2010.

## *December 31*

To follow up on yesterday's thought, let us make the following our life's goal:

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace,  
Where hate rules, let me bring love;  
Where malice, forgiveness;  
Where disputes, reconciliation;  
Where error, truth;  
Where despair, hope;  
Where darkness, Thy light;  
Where sorrow, joy.

--St. Francis of Assisi

This truly will grant us a Happy New Year not only for ourselves but also for everyone we come in contact with.

**Action:** Live today as you will wish you had lived when you stand before God.

## *A Final Word*

Thank you for allowing me to share my heart with you during this Christmas season.

My prayer is that the power of Jesus saturate your heart. May 2010 be a year that all of your desires be to glorify Jesus.

May He bless you, love you, keep you, teach you, and release you to serve Him.

*Dottie Redmond*

*"You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your paths drip with abundance."* --Psalm 65:11

*Happy New Year*



## *How To Become A Christian*

First, realize that God loves you and has a plan for your life. (John 3:16, 10:10)

Second, realize that you are a sinner and that your sins separate you from God. (Isaiah 59:2; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 6:23)

Third, believe that Jesus Christ paid your sin debt. (Romans 5:6)

Fourth, place your faith in Jesus alone for your salvation.

### CHRIST'S INVITATION

*"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him..."*  
—Revelation 3:20

If the following prayer expresses the desire of your heart, you can pray this prayer, and Jesus Christ will come into your life as He has promised.

Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. Thank You for dying on the cross for me. I now invite You into

my life as Lord and Savior. Take control of my life  
and make me what You want me to be. Amen.

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith,  
and not of yourselves; it is the gift of God."*

--Ephesians 2:8

## *Amazing Grace*

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise,  
Than when we first begun.

--John Newton

## *Finding Real Peace Through Jesus Christ*

“The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold  
your *PEACE*.” -- Exodus 14:14

“The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD  
make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto  
thee: The LORD lift up His countenance upon  
thee, and give thee *PEACE*.” --Numbers 6:24-26

“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will  
not be afraid; for GOD the LORD is my strength  
and song; and He is become my salvation.”  
--Isaiah 12:2

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect *PEACE* whose mind  
is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee.  
Trust ye in the LORD forever; for in the Lord  
JEHOVAH is everlasting strength.” --Isaiah 26:3-4

“Oh that thou wouldest hearken to My  
commandments! then would thy *PEACE* be as a  
river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea.”  
--Isaiah 48:18

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of  
him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth  
peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that

publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!" --Isaiah 52:7

"Blessed are the *PEACEMAKERS*: for they shall be called the children of God." --Matthew 5:9

"And as they thus spake, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, '*PEACE* be unto you.' " --Luke 24:26

"*PEACE* I leave with you, my *PEACE* I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you, Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." --John 14:27

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have *PEACE* with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." --Romans 5:1

"And let the *PEACE* of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." --Colossians 3:15

"And the *PEACE* of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." --Philippians 4:7

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." --2 Timothy 1:7