

The Reality of the Christmas Spirit

There is something profoundly honest in Luke's account of Christmas. It does not begin in palaces, nor in religious centers, nor in corridors of power. It begins in the fields. It begins at night. It begins with ordinary people working, watching over a flock, trying to make it through one more dawn. And it is precisely there that heaven opens.

“And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid” (Lk 2:9). Biblical Christmas is not an ornament; it is an intervention. What Luke describes is the reality of God manifesting Himself in the midst of everyday life, interrupting routine with a presence that cannot be contained in speeches or rituals. Glory surrounds them, and the first response is fear. Not because of threat, but because of impact: when God draws near, our soul realizes it stands before the Eternal.

Then comes the phrase that reveals the heart of the true “Christmas spirit”: *“Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people”* (Lk 2:10). Christmas is an announcement. It is news. It is gospel, good news. It is not an end-of-year energy, nor a sentimental atmosphere that lasts only until the dinner ends. It is heaven's declaration that God has entered history in a decisive and irreversible way.

Good News: God Has Not Forgotten Humanity

The angels do not bring a theory; they bring news with an address and a sign: *“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord”* (Lk 2:11). The promise has a date: today. It has a place: the city of David. It has an identity: Savior. It has authority: Lord. Christmas is not merely the birth of a child; it is the birth of the Savior. It is God offering rescue, not advice. It is God coming to meet humanity, not merely pointing out a path.

And there is a detail that exposes God's logic: the sign is not a throne, but *“a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger”* (Lk 2:12). God chooses simplicity. The Almighty presents Himself without human spectacle. The greatness of Christmas is not in appearance, but in meaning. Here is the most radical revelation of love: God has drawn near. God has made Himself accessible.

Heaven Sings Peace, but Peace Begins in the Heart

Suddenly, “*a multitude of the heavenly host*” appears, praising God: “*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men*” (Lk 2:13–14). The peace announced is not merely the absence of political conflict; it is reconciliation with God, the end of inner warfare and the beginning of a new spiritual reality. The peace Christmas brings is not produced by circumstances, but by the presence of the Prince of Peace.

If our idea of Christmas depends on a perfect setting, family without tension, bills paid, full health, a light schedule, we are building a fragile “Christmas spirit” that collapses at the first problem. But when Christmas is Christ, joy does not depend on the scene; it is born from the message: God came. God spoke. God acted.

The Shepherds’ Path: From Fear to Mission

The text is clear: the shepherds “*came with haste*” and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby (Lk 2:16). When the good news is real, it moves us. The biblical “Christmas spirit” does not produce emotion only; it produces decision. They did not stay behind debating details or trying to explain the supernatural. They went.

And when they saw Him, they did not keep it to themselves: they “*made widely known the saying which was told them*” (Lk 2:17). Whoever encounters Christ does not remain merely a spectator of the sacred; he becomes a messenger. Authentic Christmas transforms ordinary people into witnesses.

Notice the chain reaction: “*all those who heard it marveled*” (Lk 2:18). God uses simple people to awaken wonder in others. And Mary, in turn, “*kept all these things and pondered them in her heart*” (Lk 2:19). Christmas also teaches us to cultivate spiritual memory, to meditate on God’s faithfulness and not allow life’s hurry to steal the meaning of what the Lord does.

And the shepherds conclude their journey decisively: they “*returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen*” (Lk 2:20). They return to the same field, the same work, the same routine, but they do not return the same. This is the mark of true Christmas: it is not an escape from reality; it is transformation within reality.

Leaving Christmas Transformed

What Christmas asks of us is not only a celebration, but a response.

- A response of faith: to believe that God's manifestation truly is good news for us today.
- A response of movement: to "go with haste" to meet Christ and not leave Him as a liturgical decoration.
- A response of witness: to speak of what we have seen and heard, with simplicity and conviction.
- A response of worship: to return to daily life glorifying God, with a new mind, a new heart, a new hope.

Because, in the end, the reality of Christmas is not a feeling; it is a Person. And the name of that Person reveals everything: "*Savior... Christ... Lord*" (Lk 2:11).

And if Luke shows us the announcement, John reveals the deeper reason:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (Jn 3:16).

Merry Christmas and a blessed year of 2026.

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