

Christmas Eve: All I Want For Christmas

"This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and **you are to give him the name Jesus**, because he will save his people from their sins.'" Matthew 1:18-21 NIV

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and **they will call him Immanuel** --which means, "God with us.'" Matthew 1:23 NIV

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the **Holy Spirit**, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But **you know him**, because he lives **with you** now and later will be **in you**." Jn 14:16-17 NLT

God's presence transforms your **loneliness** into **closeness**.

"The Lord is **close** to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed." Psalms 34:18 NLT

"If your heart is broken, **you'll find God right there**; if you're kicked in the gut, he'll help you catch your breath." Psalm 34:18 MSG

God's presence transforms your **emptiness** into **a meaningful life**.

"The empty-headed treat life as a plaything; the perceptive grasp its **meaning** and make a go of it." Proverbs 15:21 MSG

God's presence transforms your **brokenness** into **wholeness**.

"Jesus said to her, "Daughter, you took a risk of faith, and now you're **healed and whole**. Live well, live blessed! Be healed.'" Mark 5:34 MSG

"Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose **hearts are set on pilgrimage**." Psalms 84:5 NIV

"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and **place it before God** as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, **fix your attention on God**. You'll be changed from the inside out." Romans 12:1-2 MSG