

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Luke 2:10-11

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

I. THE SPIRIT OF COMPASSION.

1. It seems that even the cold-hearted seem to become more caring and compassionate at Christmas.
2. All those who show compassion may not do it from the spirit of Christ dwelling within, but they have learned that this is one of the spirits that should be exemplified at Christmas more so than any other time.
3. Christian compassion originates in the mind & heart of Jesus Christ.
 - A. (Matt. 9:36) ***But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion for them, because they fainted and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.***
 - B. (I Jn 3:17) ***But whoso hath this world's good, and sees his brother have need, and shuts up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwells the love of God in him?***
 - C. (Lk 10:32-37) Perhaps the greatest parable that Jesus ever told was a parable of compassion known as The Good Samaritan.
4. In order for us to have compassion, we must assume ownership.
 - A. We will never have compassion on the lost sheep like a caring shepherd until we have compassion to go and search for the lost sheep or equip others to go.
 - B. Jesus reminds us that we are our brother's keeper, and that requires compassion.
5. The Spirit of Compassion is foundational and necessary as a prerequisite for the other spirits that we should exemplify.

II. THE SPIRIT OF GRATITUDE.

1. (I Thess. 5:18) ***In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.***
2. (I Cor. 10:31) ***Whether therefore you eat, or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.***

3. (Prov. 15:15) ***All the days of the afflicted are evil; but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.***
4. (Lk. 17:12-18) Jesus tells the parable that teaches us gratitude in the account of the healing of ten lepers.

III. THE SPIRIT OF GIVING.

1. The Spirit of Compassion and gratefulness for the blessings of God are always a prerequisite for the Christian spirit of giving.
2. The Old Testament as well as the New Testament teaches us that all that we have and every hope to have belongs to God. (Illustration: God taught Israel that by giving shoes that never wore out. They were not Nike Air, but Israeli Wonder Wear— Wonder why they never wear out! -- See Deut. 8:4 and 29:5).
3. (Malachi 3:7-10) ***Even from the days of your fathers you are gone away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you said, Wherein shall we return? Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed me. But you say, Wherein have we robbed you? In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse: for you have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in My house, and prove Me now herewith, says the Lord of Hosts if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.***
4. The psalmist David was concerned about exercising the proper spirit of giving to the Lord as a testimony of his Christian character when he asked, ***What shall I render unto the LORD for all His benefits toward me?*** (Ps. 116:12)
5. (Acts 20:35) The apostle Luke remembered the emphasis that Jesus placed on the spirit of giving as well as the rewards of giving when He said, ***I have showed you all things, how that so laboring you ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.***