



Our Dear Loved Ones, Merry Christmas!

December 10, 2022

It's the most wonderful time of the year! A miracle happened over 2000 years ago and we were redeemed! Jesus was sent to earth to be born of a virgin so we could have eternal life and be redeemed from the curse of death! What a miraculous, wonderful gift! Through the birth of Jesus, God fulfilled the prophecy from Isaiah 7 which says,

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Emmanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

Christmas is about remembering and celebrating the unique, miraculous and foretold birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. God sent His only begotten Son on earth to SAVE us from eternal damnation. Hallelujah! Just sit for a moment, dear friend, and meditate on that. Jesus is our perfect gift this Christmas and every single day of the year. Without JESUS, we would have no redemption, no hope, no peace, no joy, no light and no life. Jesus IS the redeemer (Eph. 1:7), He IS the hope-giver (2 Thess 2:16), He IS the peace-giver (Is. 9:6), He IS the joy-giver (Lk. 2:10), He IS the light-giver (Jn. 1:4) and He IS the life-giver (Jn. 3:16). When we think about all that He really IS, we can shift our focus back on Him during this time of year and less so on the other "elements" and busyness of the Christmas season.

When we take our focus away from Jesus and all that He IS and has offered to us, we lose sight of Him and get caught up in the **emotions** of Christmas. Sadly, we as Christians, have all been guilty of this. The preparations of the holidays like getting our homes cleaned and decorated, cooking and baking, putting up our Christmas trees and lights and running around buying the perfect gifts for our loved ones can take a toll on us because it puts a lot of stress and pressure on our families. Some people feel the pressure because they may not have the finances to spend on a lavish Christmas for their family and sadly it becomes competitive. Others might feel sad or depressed because their loved ones are no longer with them or maybe they're going through a separation or divorce. There are people going through so many emotions during the holidays and it's easy to lose focus on the true meaning of Christmas, which is the celebration of Jesus' birth. We, as believers, need to refocus our attention back on the true meaning of this holiday and the love that Jesus offered to each and every human being so that we're not driven by our emotions. Our Savior is the LIFE giver and His miraculous birth should fill us with such JOY during the holidays that we should radiate His love to those around us. We are not taking away from those who have lost loved ones or are going through hard times, but we need to remain focused on Jesus, what He did for us, and WHO He is for us.

"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full (John 15:11)."

Our heart's desire is for every believer to receive the TRUE revelation of the birth of Jesus and bring Him back as the main focus and celebration of this holiday season and *throughout the year*. The same excitement and joy that we feel during this time of the year should follow us all year around. Our prayer is, like that of Apostle Paul's to the church of Ephesus, for each and every one to receive the spirit of wisdom, revelation and knowledge of Him and that the eyes of our understanding be enlightened to the true meaning of His birth.

"I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, that the eyes of your understanding be enlightened (Ephesians 1:17-18)."

Jesus is our perfect gift. We challenge you to re-shift the focus of your celebrations on Him and who He is this holiday season. Let go of all the pressure and stress you've put on yourself this Christmas and allow Jesus to take that burden from you. Meditate on His goodness and the gifts He's freely given you and your family. Jesus IS the redeemer (Eph 1:7), He IS the hope-giver (2 Thess 2:16), He IS the peace-giver (Is 9:6), He IS the joy-giver (Lk 2:10), He IS the light-giver (Jn 1:4) and He IS the life-giver (Jn 3:16).

We wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas! We love you, friends, and we appreciate all the prayers and support you've given our family and Ministry throughout the year. We're so thankful for you! We're grateful for each one of you, dear friends, and we're honored you chose to be part of this harvest of JMM together with us. May the Holy Spirit pour out the revelation of His birth in our hearts this season! We can't wait to see what God has in store for all of us in the New Year!



*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

We wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from our entire Militaru family!