

A Focus for Christmas

Living as needy creatures
in this world so infected by evil,
our desires are pulled in so many directions.

We want peace of mind.

We want security from the unknowns that loom ahead of us.

We want wholeness and health – physically, mentally, emotionally.

We want close, perfect relationships with our dear loved ones,
and we don't want them to die.

We find ourselves scrambling for these things throughout this life, and
we project those desires into our picture of the next life.

So in our minds heaven becomes

peace,
freedom from trouble,
freedom from sickness, pain, and death,
freedom from any insecurity whatsoever,
an endless, happy reunion with dearly-loved people
death has ripped away from us.

And all these hopes are valid and scriptural.

But remember that

the central truth,
the real gift

of Christmas is that

God, living in heavenly perfection,
willingly became like us
in all our pain

so that we could become fully like Him.

That's who we were created to be.

That's who we long to be.

God's gift to us this Christmas is not just to
change our circumstances, but to
change us.

His gift to us is

not something we hold or
a circumstance we experience.

His Gift to us is becoming like Him,
sharing all that He is.

His Gift is Himself.

Peace...love...wholeness...joy...holiness...fullness of life,
as wonderful as they are,
are simply partial descriptions of who He is.
And He has given us
ALL He is.

At Christmas, God's gift
to each of us personally,
to our society,
to all creation
is Jesus Christ in all His
beauty and
glory.

We will be like Him.
The whole human race will be like Him.
All creation will be like Him.
YOU will be like Him!

Praise God!
Thank You, Father!

Hymn: [You Came to Us](#)

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