

## A CHRISTMAS PRAYER!

Christmas joy touches our lives in many, often unexpected, ways, and hearts are gay. There is something about Christmas that brings light and joy into the darkest heart and sets the soul free. You find great joy in putting Jesus first, others next and yourself last. It is giving and sharing and opening your hearts to the wonder of the season and sharing a spirit of joy, peace, and good will toward all men. It is remembering the reason for the season—JESUS!

Throughout the earth hearts are knit together in one accord—voices blend in sweet harmony as in joyous array old, familiar Christmas songs dance across the air waves. As we sing “Joy to the World! “O Come, All Ye Faithful.” “Silent Night,” and “We Wish You a Merry Christmas,” memories of years past dance around in our heads and as we have done many times before, a wish of the heart is raised to the Lord; a whispered “Thank You” attends it.

May you learn to recognize and hold close to your heart the precious gifts your heavenly Father bestows on you this Christmas and throughout the coming year. Jesus came to earth on Christmas Day because He loves you. Let your hearts be drawn to Him this Christmas season with thanksgiving for the gift He gives to mankind; His great love.

I pray that your days during this holiday season will be as special and unique as you are, and I pray that the peace and joy of Christmas will abide with you throughout this year. I pray that you will receive and walk in God’s peace, that you will wrap yourself in His love and let His joy gladden your heart.

When I saw the movie, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, I had my reservations as to how I would rate it as a Christmas favorite, but suddenly you see the Grinch’s plans—his efforts to douse the natural and radiant delight that accompanies the season foiled. No matter what he did, the inhabitants of Whoville, managed to keep their joyous Christmas spirit. Their highly contagious joy of the season finally touched and changed the Grinch’s heart; why, it grew three sizes that special Christmas Day. The mean-spirited Grinch was no match for the real meaning of Christmas. Dr. Seuss teaches an important lesson.

May your heart and spirit be touched with the transforming power of the season’s joy. Let every heart (even the smallest) prepare Him room. May all the days of this Christmas season be filled with joy and happiness, and may the spirit of the season stay in your hearts always. Jesus desires to bless His children abundantly and to take your hand and walk the paths of life with you. He will never leave you or forsake you; He will always be your Guiding Light.

May Jesus touch you and keep you and your loved ones safe and happy, and satisfied with His great love for the whole Christmas season and in all the days to come. May you willingly lay stress and strife

behind you and not allow it access into your lives, but rather choose to let your heart be filled with joy and peace toward all men; giving God the praise for happy days ahead.

I pray that the love of Christ, whose birth we celebrate, will bless you and those you love with peace and joy forevermore, as we remember that selfishness makes Christmas a burden; but love makes it a delight. It is the Father's heart to bring delight into our lives; to gladden our hearts and to satisfy our soul. Let us learn that Christmas joy comes through giving. May your heart sing with gladness as you do what you can to bring happiness to others, B U T don't get so busy that you miss this time of love and closeness with your family; guard this time wisely.

Most of all dear ones, I pray that the presence of Jesus will fill your heart and home with abundant blessing As we join our voices with the great host of angels in singing and praising God; "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests" (Luke 2:13-14).

Heap on more wood!—the wind is chill;  
But let it whistle as it will,  
We'll keep our Christmas merry still.

Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832)