

Read: Luke 2:17-20; 2 Corinthians 5:17

Living It Out:

Try these three (3) things this Christmas season:

1. Hear the Christmas story fresh this year – as if you’ve never heard it before. Ask the Spirit to help you imagine and understand what the Christmas story is really about, and what it really means for you.
2. Follow that longing inside you by entering into prayer, and don’t restrict your imagination, but ask the Holy Spirit to lead you as you re-experience who and what you’ve longed for.
3. Ask the Spirit to continually help you to experience the world with fresh eyes and a fresh heart, to help you see the world the way that Jesus sees the world.

Reflect on these statements:

- In Jesus we find the love we’ve been longing for.
- In Jesus we return to the home we’ve been missing.
- In Jesus, the wonder of our childhood, and of our world, and of our lives is restored, because He makes all things new! *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”* 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

If those statements are true, how then do we live? What difference does it make for how we view people around us – both those close to us and those we casually interact with?

Reflection Questions:

- Can you recall a time when you were a child and you experienced awe and wonder?
- Describe a more recent time when you experienced awe and wonder?
- As you’ve grown older, have you ever felt “jaded” – like life has lost its sense of awe and wonder?
How has that impacted your daily life?
- Sometime this week, enter into a time of prayer (mostly a time of resting in God’s presence and letting him speak or minister to you), and free your imagination to experience Jesus coming to earth to restore “abundant life” to you – a life where you can again experience love, joy, peace, and wonder, as a child would experience them at Christmas.
What is the Holy Spirit impressing upon your mind and heart as you let him speak to you?
- In what ways do you, or how will you, keep your mind and heart open to the awe and wonder of all of who God is and all that God is doing?
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