



ChristmasTIME for Your Spirit: December 11-12

GET IN THE SPIRIT

Let's get in the Christmas spirit! We play the music, we decorate the tree, we bake the cookies, and all of this is meant to get us in the spirit. But what if this isn't the spirit? What if the spirit of Christ isn't something we can find in decorations, songs, or traditions? What if just maybe, we are trying to get in the spirit in all the wrong ways?

Read Isaiah 11:1-6.

The text here from Isaiah makes it very clear that this spirit is something that rests on Jesus. It isn't something that we can get by doing a whole bunch of stuff. It is something given to us. It is a gift given to us by Jesus. When we try to make it all about us, we miss the point. We forget that this spirit of joy, peace, and hope is a spirit given to us by Jesus coming near to us. Maybe this Christmas we can all slow down to let God give us His spirit of righteousness through His Word.

Family Questions:

How have we as a family made our traditions into the thing that gets us in the Christmas spirit instead of allowing Jesus to be the one who works His spirit on us through His Word?

To hear the messages from the past weekend:

<http://www.stjohnrochester.org/resources/sermons/>



ChristmasTIME for Your Spirit: December 14-15

BABY SLEEPING WHISPERER

I have been known as the baby whisperer in my family. Whenever there is a baby in the house that people can't get to sleep, I am normally called upon to rock that little person until they get to sleep. A couple of years ago my niece came to visit. She was not feeling well and her mom just needed a break. I said, "You get some sleep and I will rock her." She is a strong-willed kid. She was fighting for longer than I am used to. It took a lot of work to get that one to sleep, but at some point during the screaming, crying, and general sadness, my willpower and sleep-inducing peace brought that kid to a moment of rest.

Read Luke 1:26-38.

I imagine Mary had some restlessness over what was about to happen. She was concerned and scared, probably very restless. She asked questions and wanted to know what would happen, but God spoke to her to bring her a spirit of peace. Today in your life you may have that same restlessness. You may be struggling in this time to have the spirit of peace. May you take hope today in Jesus being near. He has you in his arms and wants to bring you His spirit of peace. Relax and enjoy His work this season.

Family Questions:

What questions or things in your life are causing you to be restless?

How can we give those over to Jesus to find a spirit of rest?



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