

My Prayer For You This Christmas: James Dillet Freeman [excerpted]

Unity.org

At Christmas it is easier to see the wonder of things.

Is the wonder in the things, or is it in us? I would say it is in both. Certainly, things take on a special wonder at Christmas. With candles at our tables, with wreaths in our windows, with holly at our doors, with our houses festooned with colored lights, with the lampposts hung with fir boughs and bells, with mailbags bulging with greeting cards, with every shop window a window dresser's triumph, with the downtown streets alive with noisy, jostling crowds of joyous people all bent on bringing happiness to others—it is as if at Christmas God gift wraps [the] world.

Christmas has power to quicken our sense of wonder because it turns us into children. Children have a wonderful sense of wonder. So tonight, before you fall asleep, lie still for a moment, shut your eyes, and think back to the Christmas of your childhood. Or better yet, feel for the wonder in your heart.

I remember the doubts that were sowed in my mind. I was told if I misbehaved, I would find when I rose on Christmas morning, coal in my stocking instead of gifts. Since I had always misbehaved and knew, if I got my just desserts, coal it would be, I always took down my stocking with dread mixed in with my hope. But always when I upended it, the Christmas stocking spewed into my greedy fingers not coal, but oranges, apples, nuts, jackknives, toy boats, tops, and as many other small surprises as could be crammed into its expandable depths.

Perhaps this is one small reason I believe in a God who is infinite forgiveness and loving-kindness. ...

That is why Christmas is, first of all, the Christmas story.

Christmas is the birth of Christ.

The birth of Christ is the birth of humanity's best dream and highest hope. It is the birth of God in humanity.

The childlike shepherds came from near at hand. The Wise Men came from afar. It was after a long, hard journey that they found the Christ.

When the shepherds came looking for God, they brought only their wonder, for this was all they had.

The Wise Men probably were too wise to believe in angels. But they brought gifts and followed a star—and it, too, led them to the Truth.

God reveals Himself alike to shepherds and to Wise Men, to all who come looking for Him. If you are a wise man, you may have to come by a longer road than if you are a shepherd, but the Christmas wonder, smiling like a newborn child, lies waiting for you to find it. So if you have a wise man's mind or if you have a shepherd's heart, come take a look at Christmas, and be filled with the wonder of God.