

## Finding the Divine YES!

— Beauty for Ashes, Oil of Joy

### I. The Holidays (*Thanksgiving, Christmas, NY*) can become a *Holy Daze*

— a state of stunned confusion.

Loneliness, Depression, Dysfunction, Addictions

But wait! WE are the Light of the World – source of energy, life function, transformation of deserts into gardens.

How do we **arise & shine**?

Here is some LIGHT in the DARKNESS

### II. See Through the STUFF – Finding Beauty in the Ashes

#### A. Within Disappointment can be Timing & Intent:

2 Pet 3.9 The **Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise** as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Gal 4.4 NIV But **when the time had fully come**, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, 5 to redeem those under law, that we might receive **the full rights of sons**.

#### B. Love Believes & Hopes

– *in God's Faithfulness*

2 Cor 1.15 Because I was sure of this, **I wanted to come to you** first, so that you might have a second experience of grace. 16 **I wanted to visit you** on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea.

17 Was I vacillating (did I **do it lightly**) when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say “**Yes, yes**” and “**No, no**” at the same time?

18 *As surely as God is faithful, our word to you* has not been Yes and No.

– *in the ALWAYS YES Gospel*

19 For the **Son of God, Jesus Christ**, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, *but in him it is always Yes.*

20 *For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.* That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

*In Christ is the yes, **the ultimate unambiguous YES!***

*All God's promises* —of blessing, peace, joy, goodness, fellowship, forgiveness, strength, and hope of eternal life — *come true, in Christ!*

He is the **horn of salvation** prophesied by all the prophets

Luke 1.69 NKJ [He] has **raised up a horn of salvation** for us  
In the house of His servant David,

70 As **He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets**,  
Who *have been* since the world began,

71 That we should be **saved from our enemies**

– *that the Word will be FULFILLED & FILL US*

Luke 24.44 Then he said to them, "... that **everything written about me ...must be fulfilled.**"

John 1.1 ESV In the beginning was **the Word**, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

14 And **the Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, **full** of grace and truth.

**C. Love is FULLNESS – overflowing, self-emptying**

16 For **from his fullness** we have all received, grace upon grace.

**All the fullness**

Col 1.15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, ... — **all things** were created **through** him and **for** him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ... 19 For **in him *all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell***, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself **all things**, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Col 2.9 For **in him *the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily***, 10 and ***you have been filled in him***, who is the head of all rule and authority.

There is **nothing *which is not in Him***.

Eph 1.22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the **fullness** of him **who fills all in all**.

– “Losing” can open the door to “immeasurably more”

Phil 3.8 Indeed, I count everything as loss ***because of the surpassing worth*** of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake ***I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish***, in order that I may ***gain Christ*** 9 and ***be found in him***, ...

Eph 3.20 NIV Now to him who is able to do **immeasurably more** than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 **to him be glory in the church** and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

### III. Good News & Great JOY to the Poor in Spirit

- Luke 2.8 NKJ** Now there were in the same country **shepherds**<sup>1</sup> living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. **10** Then the angel said to them, **“Do not be afraid,** for behold, **I bring you good tidings of great joy** which will be to all people. **11** For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”
- 13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:
- 14** “Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

#### **IV. Our Hope!**

I am here and I am now.

I AM is with me and in me.

I am accepted in the Beloved, qualified by God to share the inheritance purchased at the Cross.

God has said “Yes!” to me.

Through me, His “Yes!” is going out into the world.

I am looking for His Kingdom and His Righteousness.

I am full of love and power.

I am complete in Christ.

Because of this, I have nowhere I must go or nothing more I must do to live in pure joy and love.

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<sup>1</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> C. shepherds were social outcasts, considered vagabond & thieves. David, Ps 23 (good shepherds). Good news to those of low estate.

I am free to live with delight and wonder.

I have free access the infinite wisdom of the mind of Christ.

Inhale the Breath of His Son...

The Spirit of Christmas!

**Good News of Great Joy... Joy is the Serious Work  
of Heaven...**