

Emmanuel Prayer List - December

Hampers of Food were taken to families in Wasauksing this weekend

- As baskets are put together for Wasauksing families, may willing workers show up and funds be provided to make this 'mission of love' a reality
- The recipients will sense God's Love through these hampers
- Those who deliver the hampers will be blessed and kept safe as they travel
- For those from our church family who make these deliveries on our behalf, may the joy of the person-to-person connection be their blessing
- For all who give time and money toward the Food Hampers for this First Nation, will find peace and joy

Study Continued

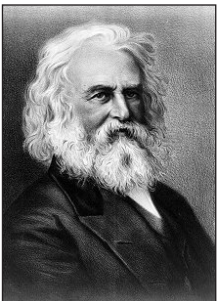
8. In your own life, how has God shown you His will with regards to decisions you had to make? Determining the will of God isn't always easy. When we think we have determined what God wants us to do, how can we make sure that our actions are in line with the will of God, and not just our own thoughts?
Also read Romans 12:1-2; Proverbs 15:22; II Timothy 3:16-17; Romans 8:26-27
9. Read Philippians 4:6-7. God promises us His peace when we come to Him with those things that are causing us to be anxious. Certainly, Joseph found peace to make the decision he made. Peter talked about 'praying through', what did that phrase mean? (see your notes)
10. Verse 24 tells us, "When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him." There is no greater place to be than to know that your life is in the centre of God's will. Joseph didn't fully understand the situation, but he trusted God with the outcome. Has there been a situation in your life where you needed to do something that you found hard, but you trusted God with the outcome? How did it work out?

What have you learned about discerning the will of God that you can apply to future decisions?



**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,
goodwill towards men.**

Luke 2:14



Christmas Bells by Henry Longfellow written on Christmas Day 1864

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men."

The Promise of Peace

Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth _____, goodwill towards men

In order for us to know the peace of God, we first need to make peace _____ God

PEACE IS FOUND IN THE _____ OF GOD

v.18-20 Joseph's dilemma:

v.19 Joseph is described as a _____ man. Which means?

Micah 6:8 Act _____, love _____ and walk _____ with your God

Psalms 85:8 I will _____ to what God the Lord says; He promises peace to his people.

Ways that God is 'speaking' to us:

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PEACE IS A _____ FROM GOD

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, _____ peace I give to you, I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Like all gifts, it must be _____

Philippians 4:6-7 tells us to...

Praying through:

1. God _____ (1 Peter 5:7)

2. God _____ (1 John 5:14)

3. God _____ (Matthew 6:8)

v.24 Joseph's response:

1. The dictionary describes peace as: Freedom from disturbance or conflict; a state of tranquility or quiet.
How would you define what peace would be for you personally?
2. The angels message was, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards men." (Luke 2:14) Also, read John 14:27, where Jesus promises us His peace. Peter made the statement, that before we can find the peace 'of' God in any situation we are in, we must first of all make peace 'with' God. What did he mean by that statement?
3. Read Matthew 1:18-25. Betrothal was more than what we think of as an engagement. They were considered married, but the marriage hadn't been consummated. Betrothal lasted for one year, at which time the groom would come and take his bride to his own home.
What do you think were the emotions going on inside Joseph, when he heard that Mary was pregnant?
4. Joseph is described as a righteous man (v.19). What does that mean?
5. What would have been some of the possible consequences to Joseph, in taking Mary to be his wife?
6. Read Deuteronomy 22:20-21. The Jewish law is pretty clear on this issue. However, also read Micah 6:8. Later on Jesus Himself, would quote from Hosea 6:6, in teaching the pharisees on how to deal with sinners, by saying to them, "Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'" (Matt 9:13)
As a righteous man, Joseph would want to keep the law (Act justly). However righteousness is more than just keeping to the letter of the law, it is to act mercifully (Love mercy). So what was Joseph to do, he was to walk 'humbly with his God', which means that he would do whatever God wanted him to do regardless of the consequences to himself, trusting God.
Verse 20 says, "after he had considered this...". What do you think Joseph did to determine what he should do?
7. Verse 20 says, "After he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream." From your notes opposite, what are some of the many ways that God "speaks" to us?