

# *The Advent Experience of Christmas: Peace*

Luke 2:14 KJV

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:14 NIV

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Luke 2:14 NLT

“Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”

It could also be worded: "Glory to God, and on earth, peace among men who *please God*" or "among men *with whom God is pleased*"

Therefore the correct answer is:

Peace on earth = peace between men and God

Good will toward men = God's peace between himself and men who accept his Son

Hebrews 11:6 NLT

And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

John 3:16-17 NLT

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave<sup>[a]</sup> his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband

was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

*We experience God's peace in the midst of chaos when we obey.*

## **Compassion**

Matthew 1:18-19 (NLT)

This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>19</sup> Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

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## **Prayer**

Matthew 1:20-23 (NLT)

As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet: <sup>23</sup> “Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”

## **Obedience**

Matthew 1:24-25 (NLT)

When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

Joseph had Godly **motives**.

Joseph had **compassion**.

Joseph **listened** to God speak into the decision.

Joseph **did** what the angel of the Lord had commanded him.

The only way to experience the peace of God is to **do** things **His way**.

**Obedience** is a choice.

*We experience God’s peace in the midst of chaos when we **obey**.*

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