

Joy in Uncertain Times Devotion: Part 4

In Luke 2:10 we read *But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people*

In this small verse about Jesus's birth there are four very important lessons we can learn. During this time of continued isolation, uncertainty of when things will return to "normal", financial strain that is beyond our control, medical concerns, and feeling lonely and scared these four important lessons from this verse can guide us during this time.

This devotion is a four-part series where each devotion will focus on each lesson separately.

Today is the fourth part where we focus on the words *all the people*.

All the people

As Christians we know that God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit is for everyone, anywhere at any time. God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit doesn't care what you have done or haven't done – they only care that you say yes. When we say yes, we are making a choice to live life differently and choose to have behaviors such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, which are the fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-23 NRSV). During this time saying yes to God frees us from our worries, concerns and selfishness and it provides us a roadmap, the fruits of the spirit, of how to live and interact. This way of being is for everyone no matter who you are.

However, many choose to say no to God and live an earthy life. Jesus knew this and even wept twice during his life on earth for the fact that not everyone will get it. These experiences can be found in John 11:1-45 and Luke 19:41-44. The challenge is knowing God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit is for everyone at any time – all we need to do is to say yes. During this pandemic time, you have a choice to make. Do you allow your earthly concerns and worries overtake you or do you focus on God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and say yes? The message of the angels to the shepherds over 2000 years ago is just as relevant as today. This message of joy, hope, freedom and life is for everyone at any time. Are you choosing moment by moment to live into the fruit of the spirit or are you not?

Lord, may everyone feel your presence during uncertain times. Those who believe and those who do not believe. May light be brought into the darkness so that all can know and experience your love and grace. Amen.

by Rev. David Piltz