



All I Want For Christmas Is Joy

"The Bible held me rapt. The words stepped off the page and followed me home. I found more than poetry in that Gothic King James script. ... I'd always be first up when there was an altar call, the 'come to Jesus' moment. I still am. If I was in a café right now and someone said, 'Stand up if you're ready to give your life to Jesus,' I'd be the first to my feet. I took Jesus with me everywhere and I still do." Bono

"Defiant Joy"

Luke 2:4-12: "So, Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. ⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'"

The Christmas story is a _____

Intentional Joy..... NOT..... Irrational Joy

Peak Performance Depends on your Joy Performance

Phil. 4:4: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"

Ephesians 4:23(ESV): "...be renewed in the spirit of your minds"

2 Corinthians 10:5: "...take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

Hebrews 12:2: "...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross."

If you grumble, you'll stumble..

Nehemiah 8:10: "...the joy of the Lord is your strength."

2 Peter 3:5(ESV):"...the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God."

Ephesians 5:26: "...by the washing with water through the word."

1 Peter 3:20,21:"...in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God."