



## Praying Through the Holidays

**I**t starts in November and before you know it we are in the middle of the Christmas season.

For me this Christmas seems a little brighter than in years past. God seems closer. Jesus birth reminds us of His death. His love for me and for you is overwhelming.

This year we spent the week of Thanksgiving with my Mother and sisters and brother in law traveling to Arkansas to see much loved family members that I had not seen in a long time. On the way we spent two days on Petit Jean Mountain. Our cabin backed up to a cliff and you could walk out the back and see the mountain and the valleys. I sat outside one morning with my Bible and looked out at the canvas that only an extraordinary God could create and felt in total awe of our awesome God. He seemed so vast and yet so close. And I heard the words that Pastor Debra had given me before I left, from Psalm 46.



### *Be still and know that I am God.*

That is not always easy to do during this time of year! There is so much to do we often don't enjoy the season. This year join me in committing to taking the time to *Be Still and Know He is God*. When you are rushing around and buying presents that you don't know how you will pay for, going to parties, church events and children's programs, know that God is with you all the time. Take time to delight in Him. Take time to enjoy the Christmas lights and decorations. Remember that Jesus is the reason for this season. Put Him first on your list today. Take time to thank Him for blessing you. And don't forget to show Jesus to everyone around you. Remember the sales clerk that has heard people fussing at her all day and give her a kind word even if you are frustrated with her. It might make her day. Be patient and kind to other shoppers or drivers who are tired and in a hurry. Don't give satan the satisfaction of using you to create more frustration for others. Smile. People who are shopping forget to do this. Look around, how can you show the Light of Christ to someone around you.

Do you have parties or events that Christ isn't invited to this year? Then consider not going and taking that time to slow down and spend time with your family or friends. Or maybe just a quite night at home with your feet up.

Are you eating too much at holiday dinners and parties. Take one day a week to fast and spend a little time in God's presence. You will feel better physically and spiritually. Soak in the words of familiar Christmas Songs, let their words deep into your heart, hear them as if they were new. Let the wonder of the New Born King bring you a new awe for our Lord and Savior.

So each day left during this Christmas season, wake up and give God your day. Whisper to Him all day, give him your problems, your thanksgiving, your all. If you don't take it back from Him during the day, it's going to be a WODERUFUL day!

If Christmas is a sad time for you, I understand, I have been there. God is with you. Call a friend or someone in your church family. Ask them to pray with you. Your day will be brighter, remember there is always hope in Jesus Christ. He was born so that He could die for us, that we might be free and whole and know that we will spend eternity with HIM!

## Delight in the Lord today!



*Psalm 46: <sup>10</sup> "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."*