

“Peace...strength to hold on”

Matthew 3:11-12

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*Are you feeling the Christmas energy?*

*What is source of Christmas cheer?*

*If peace were to show up at your door, what would it look like?*

1. **Peace** as a verb

*“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”* —Matthew 3:11

• **Fruit of Repentance** (Luke 3)

Those in the crowd share one of your shirts

Tax Collectors \_\_\_\_\_

Soldiers don't extort money, be content you're your pay

Busy Christians     ?    ?    ?

• **Fruit of Peace**

Peace comes as we live peace \_\_\_\_\_

How might we embody peace this Christmas \_\_\_\_\_

*“Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.”* —Martin Luther King Jr.

2. **Purifying** Peace

*“His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”*—Matthew 3:12

- **Keep the main thing the main thing.**  
**Jesus is the reason for the season.**  
**He really is.**

- **Discerning judgment**

**Fire—cleansing, purifying**

**Threshing floor—final judgment**

- **Dynamic powerful.**

*“When we choose deliberately to obey Him, then He will tax the remotest star and the last grain of sand to assist us with all His almighty power” (My Utmost, Dec. 1).*

*“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* (Matthew 28:18-20)

### 3. **Practical** Peace

#### **Practical practices of Peace**

- *Opened a door for me.*
- *Gave me a shopping cart*
- *Stopped and gave directions in the hospital*
- *Complimented someone on a Christmas uniform*
- *Visited an old friend*
- *Served a dinner rather than ate*

#### **In Holy Communion:**

- We receive peace
- We give peace