



By President
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HOW TO FEEL THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a glorious season of the year. It is also a busy time for most of us. It is my hope and prayer that we may not become so caught up in the pressures of the season that we place our emphasis on the wrong things and miss the simple joys of commemorating the birth of the Holy One of Bethlehem.

Finding the real joy of Christmas comes not in the hurrying and the scurrying to get more done. We find the real joy of Christmas when we **make the Savior the focus of the season.**

Our celebration of Christmas should be a reflection of the love

and selflessness taught by the Savior. **Giving**, not getting, brings to full bloom the Christmas spirit. We **feel more kindly** one to another. We reach out in love to help those less fortunate. Our **hearts are softened.** Enemies are forgiven, friends remembered, and God obeyed. The spirit of Christmas illuminates the picture window of the soul, and we look out upon the world's busy life and become more interested in people than in things. To catch the real meaning of the spirit of Christmas, we need only **seek the Spirit of Christ.**

May we **give as the Savior gave.** To give of oneself is a holy gift. We give as a remembrance of all

the Savior has given. May we also give gifts that have eternal value, along with our gifts that eventually break or are forgotten. How much better the world would be if we all gave gifts of understanding and compassion, of service and friendship, of kindness and gentleness.

As the Christmas season envelops us with all its glory, may we, as did the Wise Men, seek a bright, particular star to guide us in our celebration of the Savior's birth. May we all make the journey to Bethlehem in spirit, taking with us a tender, caring heart as our gift to the Savior. ■

From the 2013 First Presidency Christmas Devotional.

