

The background is a deep blue night sky filled with numerous stars of varying sizes and colors, including bright white and yellow stars with lens flare effects. At the bottom of the image, a dark silhouette of a grassy hill is visible, with three camels and their riders walking across it from left to right. The overall scene is peaceful and evokes a sense of wonder and hope.

I BELIEVE IN CHRISTMAS

Zig Ziglar



I would like to tell you why I believe in Christmas.

It's the first Christmas I can remember. It arrived just seven weeks after the deaths of my father and baby sister. To make matters worse, it was in the heart of the Great Depression. Things were tough. All of us children who were older made what income contributions we could, but the truth was my mother had eight of her eleven remaining children still living at home, and six were too young to work. Understandably, the Ziglar kids were concerned about what kind of Christmas it would be!

The good news is that though our grief was fresh, we still celebrated Christmas. We received no toys that year, but much to my delight in my gift box I found three English walnuts and something I had never tasted before—raisins! They were absolutely delicious. Mama prepared her wonderful molasses candy and we had a small cedar tree. And my mother read the Christmas story, like she always did. My sixth Christmas will always have great meaning to me. We celebrated the birth of Christ even in hard times because we believed in Christmas.

“

A Change in Celebrating the Season

Unfortunately, over the years things have changed. The cheerful “Merry Christmas” of yesteryear has been replaced by the politically correct “Happy Holidays!” In the minds of many people we celebrate “holidays.” Not only is Christ not at the center of the celebration, he isn’t even considered to be the reason for the season!

If I seem upset about the changes that I see taking place in regard to Christmas, it is because I am! It’s not because an old tradition is being changed. No, I’m upset that the event that made it possible for me to have a life I could never have imagined is being hidden from view with decorations, wrapping paper, parties and political correctness!



Christmas! A Reason to Celebrate



You see, I believe it's worth celebrating that Jesus came to earth—His birth signaled hope for all mankind. I believe that as He lived out a perfect life before God and mankind, He showed that He truly was God's Son. And I believe that by giving His life up on a cross, He completely paid the penalty that my sins—and yours—deserve before a holy God. And it was made possible because of that first Christmas.

How could I not believe in Christmas? Because Christ was born as a baby in a manger, that's more than enough reason to celebrate Christmas for what it is—a joyful occasion. I've experienced forgiveness of my sins and have the assurance of eternity in Heaven!

If you don't know Jesus Christ, let me say that He tells us in John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." How do you do that? First, understand that I'm talking about a relationship, not a religion. All the world's major religions emphasize that you qualify for heaven by your good works—the things that you do.

Nothing we could ever "do" could qualify us for God's forgiveness and reserve our place in heaven. That's why Christ Himself said, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him who he has sent" (John 6:29).

Celebrate Like Never Before

God forgives us, saves us from our sins, and gives us eternal life based on our belief in what Jesus did for us. Why? Because God is gracious beyond measure! The Bible says that it is "...by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works..." (Ephesians 2:8-9). Though "the wages of sin is death" [eternal separation from God], the greatest Christmas gift we could ever have is "the free gift of God...eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

With gift-giving like that from God, I don't want to lose the significance of Christmas.
I believe in Christmas!

I urge you to accept the greatest "Christmas gift" you'll ever receive: If you're convinced that God's way is the only way to meaningful life now and eternal life in heaven, you can tell Him in words like these, "Dear God, I do believe Jesus died for me, and took the punishment my sins deserved. I want to receive your free gift of salvation and eternal life. Thank you for making this possible!"