

## *The Mystery of Peace*

**W**hat is it about that word? Peace. Better yet, what is it about that condition that attracts all people from all walks of life?

It seems we all want it, many of us believe "it is not attainable," others believe it will only happen in the "here after" and a whole bunch of us say "surely this little baby, whose birth we celebrate once a year, cannot possibly bring it."

This, then, is my story of "Peace," my way of saying I "know" you can have it, right now, tomorrow, forever. It is not influenced by where in the world you are; there are no conditions in which you cannot have it. The season or the weather do not make it close or far-off. It is yours (mine) at all times, all ways.

### *Stormwalker*

*Matthew 14:22-33*

*Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.*

*<sup>23</sup>And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.*

*<sup>24</sup>But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.*

*<sup>25</sup>Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.*

*<sup>26</sup>And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.*

*<sup>27</sup>But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."*

*<sup>28</sup>And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."*

*<sup>29</sup>So He said, "Come."*

*And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.*

*<sup>30</sup>But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"*

*<sup>31</sup>And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"*

*<sup>32</sup>And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.*

*<sup>33</sup>Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."*

I am a Stormwalker! Life has been for me an opportunity to test the waters, to step outside the boat and with nothing more than my faith in the "Truest Stormwalker" of all, to walk on the water, or sometimes through the water.

Let me tell you that walk has been at times through raging winds, often thunder and lightning and rain that would cascade down so hard I would truly think, "I am going to drown." That is not to mention the waves and the water below me, which could also at times be raging, threatening, and consuming.

In all cases that faith in the "True Stormwalker" has brought me through safely to a calm, peaceful sea. The Stormwalker can and will do that for all who can risk taking His hand and stepping into the sea of life with Him.

My life has been marked by violence. A violent childhood, which led to a violent marriage, which ended in violence. I walked through those years with a true

sense of "Peace in the storm." While in the middle of the storm I was often "rescued." But that rescue did not remove me from the storm — it brought "Peace" in the midst of the storm.

So, let's get back to the Baby whose birthday we celebrate each year in December. As a way to compare and search: What is this condition of Peace for which we long? What is more peaceful than a sleeping infant? Not much. Given the resilience of an infant, most of them can survive a lot of stuff. Things like noise, temperature changes, location changes, hunger (thanks to the invention of pacifiers), to name a few.

That Baby Boy born in a barn, wrapped in rags, lying in hay, stable animals surrounding Him — He knows all about the things, the stuff of this life that can attempt to rob us of our "Peace." He is willing to share that with each of us, this ability to have Peace at all times, at all places, in all circumstances. He longs for us to experience "Peace" as much as we long to have it.

He is our Peace. We cannot have Peace in any other way! It is a Peace that will never be taken from us no matter what the stuff of this world can hurl at us. Take this Peace into your situation. You will not be disappointed, if you are looking for true Peace.

~ Diane K. Reynolds  
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Lord,

*In the press and the rush of life, the symbol of the Christmas rush is almost comical. And yet, it so truly depicts how little in control we really are of the things of our lives. We seek more, better, improved, enhanced and throw ourselves away seeking something we cannot achieve on our own. Peace. What a beautiful thought. Help me to surrender to the Peace which You have already provided and long for me to accept. Amen.*



O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,  
And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God, the King,  
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous Gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sins and enter in,  
Be born to us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
Oh, come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!