

SOMETHING IS STIRRING

A tradition some people might have on Christmas Eve is to read the poem *The Night Before Christmas*. The poem starts off with these words:

**Twas the night before Christmas
When all through the house
Not a creature was stirring
Not even a mouse.**

How I wish I could say this about my house this Christmas Eve. There is a creature stirring in our house. I am not referring to my dog Daisy who just stirred awake from her sleepy slumber when the mail was delivered. I think she is happy that the postal strike is over because now she has someone to bark at again.

For the past week or so the stirring in my house has been coming from the crawl space between our first and second floors. At first, days would go by without hearing this sound. Now the sound of this creature scurrying has become more frequent. The past few days this creature has been spending time in the crawl space between my main level and upper bathroom. For the most part I just hear it moving around but there have been a few moments during the past week when it has been busy scratching at the floorboards. I decided to call a pest removal company on Friday to come and do an inspection to see how best to remove this critter. Unfortunately, this company has not returned my call, so I still have this critter. I would have loved to have had this critter removed from my house before Christmas Eve, but I may have to put up with more "stirring" from this creature during the holidays.

The poem, *The Night Before Christmas* may say there should be no stirring going on, but as believers we know there should be lots of emotions swirling in our hearts at this time of year. As we celebrate another Christmas we may be noticing:

- awe and amazement stirring in our hearts being reminded that God came to be with us in the person of Jesus Christ in order to be our Saviour,
- that our hearts are filled with peace being reminded at this time of year of how God keeps His promises,

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- seeds of truth stirring and taking root in our hearts as we once again hear the stories leading up to the birth of Christ and we see how God is speaking to us in new ways through them,
- that our hearts are uplifted with joy as we sing the songs that we love that are associated with this time of year,
- that our hearts are being stirred just like Mary with a desire to serve our Lord more,
- that our hearts are stirred with faith and confidence knowing that God will provide for our needs just like He provided for Mary and Joseph upon their arrival in Bethlehem.

These are just some of the emotions that should be stirring within our hearts as a result of Christmas. Let's pay close attention to the emotions that are stirring within our hearts during this season to see what they may be revealing to us about our faith and walk with the Lord. Hopefully the stirring going on inside of our hearts is reminding us how blessed and fulfilled we are to experience the gift of Christ in our lives. If some of these emotions are not stirring in our hearts this season, then let's ask God to stir our hearts in a special way so we can experience all the joys at this time of year.

I may have some stirring from a creature in my house this Christmas. I know there will also be a stirring of heartburn going on inside of me after my second or third helping of stuffing. I hope to get rid of these stirrings, but not the ones that come with celebrating Christ's birth.

Keep safe and have a blessed Christmas season.

Pastor Dean