

JESUS CAME

'Jesus came into the world' I Timothy 1:15

TROUBLE CAME

While preparing a devotional a few months back, I came upon Job 27:9, which mentions the universal problem of trouble coming into people's lives. I felt the Holy Spirit directed me to write next a series of devotions about the help God sends to us when trouble comes. Sometimes that help is a delivering or provisional miracle, and what a wonderful thing when God helps in that way. But we also looked at other ways God sends aid when trouble comes, such as renewed:

- Hope
- Faith
- Joy
- Grace

All of these spiritual gifts are a great help when trouble comes.

JESUS CAME TO THE WORLD

Two thousand years ago, however, God sent the greatest help He could to this world at that time. The world, then as now, was a chaotic place filled with violence and evil. With little apparent reason to hope, mankind was desperately lost in sin. But God had made a promise, first in the Garden of Eden and later to His prophets, that He would send help in the form of a Messiah. And He did. Jesus came to a stable in Bethlehem. A heavenly choir heralded His coming that night. They said, "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men*" (Luke 2:14). God certainly deserved glory for this act which, through Jesus's Ministry, including His sacrificial death, showed the goodwill God had toward mankind. He wanted to repair the rift, heal the division and solve the perplexing problem of sin. It was a new day for the sons of Adam.

JESUS CAME TO US PERSONALLY

The transformative power Jesus' mission was to unleash can best be seen in individuals' lives. That's why He came, after all, to save individual sinners who desperately needed help. And because He came and lived a sinless life, offering Himself as a sacrifice to pay the penalty for our sins, that help was and is now available to anyone who calls out for it.

A PRAYER FOR HELP

Whatever trouble is visiting you as you read these words, God, through Jesus, has made help available to you. Grace, healing, hope and faith can lift and heal you right now as you call out for God's help. Lord, we come to you now asking for your help. Seeking your wisdom, guidance and healing touch, knocking believing the door we need to be opened to provide that help will open. One more thought as you await God's help. It does not come because you are good. Your help comes because Jesus came and because He is good. Rejoice, Jesus has come!