



It's that time of year, the time when we review all that's happened during the past twelve months, when we complain that we haven't the time to do all our shopping, and the time when we make resolutions for the New Year. For most of us it is fun and enjoyable. We connect with old friends. We have family gatherings. We might even think about the meaning of the holiday we are celebrating. It's that time of year.

For students of mysticism this can be paradoxical. Aren't we taught to live in the now moment? We are. We are also taught to be in the world of time and space, yet not be part of it. That sounds impossible, but there is a way, and it has to do with the Christ.

*The Christ* is a term denoting the innate presence of God in all humanity. The Christ is not the person born over two thousand years ago; it is the eternal and constant appearing of the Divine in individual Consciousness. The Christ is the manifestation of God in each and every one of us.

So, how does that work?

For us to realize the Christ presence individually, we must first clarify how we perceive God in relationship to the world. Do we hold an orthodox concept of a rewarding and punishing God, or do we accept that God is universal spirit and the substance of all form?

To accept God as spirit, as being inconceivable to the human mind, as being the universal presence and creative principle for all that exists, shifts our perception of reality. To accept this Presence as neither good nor evil, unchanged by human concept, and eternal – having no connection to time and space – saves us from trying to reconcile the world of material belief to the divine ideal of Oneness. That means we understand that God knows nothing of “this world” and that we cannot pray to God to change human conditions. Once rid of personal judgment, of any personal hypothesis about creation, and the belief that there is a heavenly puppet master controlling human affairs, we are free to experience God without reservation and agenda. We can then embrace omnipotence and let It be in control. God cannot change one atom of Its creation; it is already perfect, good and true.

We do celebrate Jesus and his coming into this world. Jesus embodied the Christ more than anyone in recorded history. He demonstrated that it is not might, nor power that brings peace and fulfillment to life, but that it is the spirit of God – the God free of any and all personal concepts. Jesus revealed that beauty and joy are already within us, waiting to be released. Listen to what he said:

- *He that has seen me has seen the Father.* There is no other God than the indwelling Christ within each and every person.
- *Why call me good? There is only one good, He who sent me.* Look beyond the human appearances to the Source within.
- *I am the way, the truth and the life.* Let go of your concepts of good and evil and watch your life blossom with joy.
- *That they all be one; as You Father are in me and I in You.* In the now moment, there is no separation from God the Father, God the Son and you, the activity of God on earth.
- *Love one another as I have loved you.* Personal love is but a taste of the unconditional Love that exists in the now moment.
- *My peace I give unto you.* This is the gift of Christmas – Peace on Earth and Goodwill to all.

*Merry Christmas to all – Hau'oli Kalikimaka i nā mea a pau!*