

<p> <p>PEACE 2010</p> <p>What's on your Christmas list this year? ♦What is it that you wish with all your might to see under the tree this holiday season? ♦Of course the list is as endless as there is taste - right? ♦Or no taste, for that matter. ♦There's so much to choose from! ♦We've got iPods and Mega Moon Mood Hopz's available to us. ♦Or maybe you'd prefer an EyeClopse Mini Projector? ♦If you can think it up, someone, somewhere is trying to make it available in multiple colors and various sizes for your purchasing pleasure! ♦I mean who wouldn't want Power Paws Nonslip Socks for their pet? ♦Or my personal favorite, a personalized stuffy that looks just like you. ♦(I know what Ann's getting for Christmas!) ?</p>
<p>All of this ♦stuff♦ that finds it's way under our tree, is really a far cry from the presents promised to us on that very first Christmas. ♦Prominent among these first gifts (and probably the most sought after - in one way or another) is the gift of peace. ♦Isaiah stated ♦centuries before the birth of Jesus, that this Savior would be known as ♦The Prince of Peace.♦ ♦How cool is that? ♦The ♦Boss of peace!♦ ♦The angels who appeared to ghost-white, terrified shepherds on the hills outside of Bethlehem even sang of ♦peace on earth♦ at the birth of Jesus. ♦But really, where does this peace exist? ♦There certainly was no peace for the Babe born in the Bethlehem manger. ♦A murderous king saw to that. ♦But Jesus' life ♦was marked by grief. ♦He was refreshing water for people living in a desert and they refused to drink! ♦?</p>
<p>So where's the peace in our strife-filled world? ♦Look within. ♦The peace that Jesus rules is the greatest possible expression of it! ♦This ♦Jesus-peace♦ that defies understanding is the power of presence . . . His! ♦He comes into our lives and does a new thing. ♦Lovingly He doesn't leave us like He found us but transforms us into peace-seeking missiles! ♦We become peace-peddlers which helps lead to more external peace in the world - at least, it should. ♦?</p>
<p>So, you're making your Christmas list . . . that's good! ♦I hope you get all the gizmos you desire, because I like seeing you happy. ♦But let me suggest a greater treasure, an ancient treasure that's been around since the very first Christmas. ♦Peace - the peace of presence. Let Jesus show you what gifting is all about! ?</p> <p>- Dale</p>
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