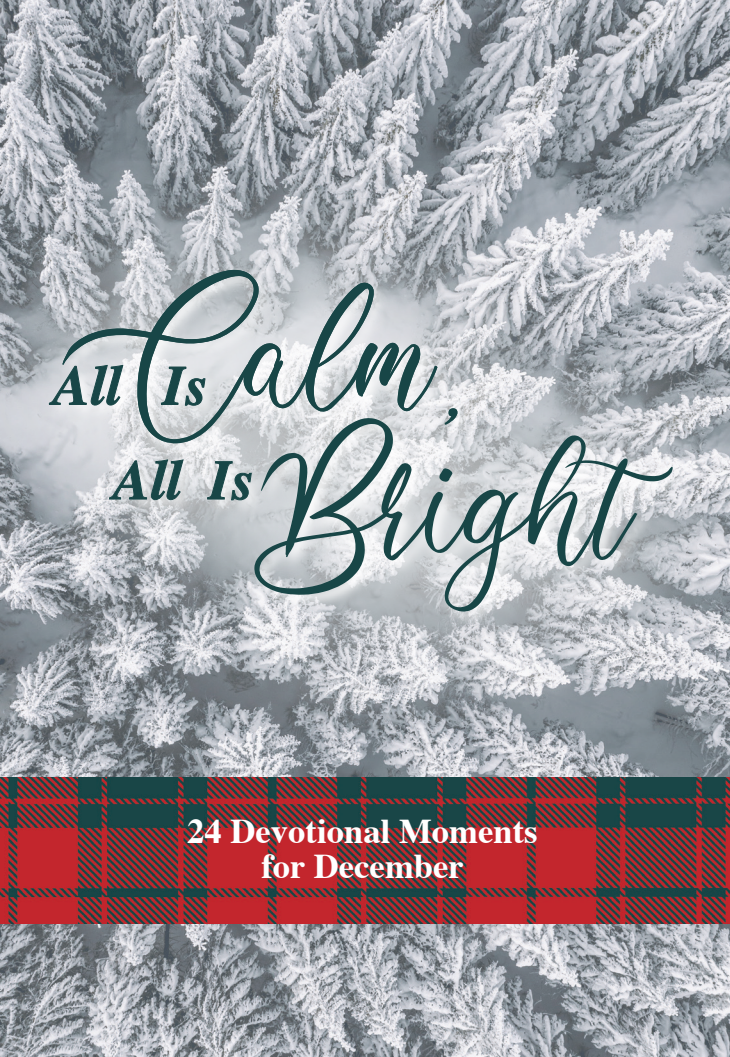
All Is Calm,
All Is Bright
24 Devotional Moments
for December

At CTA – Christ to All, our goal is to see Christians highly effective in their ministry so that Christ's Kingdom is strengthened and expanded.

All Is Calm, All Is Bright

24 Devotional Moments for December

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Unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given.

Isaiah 9:6 KJV

Calm and Bright

Do you remember when the days leading up to Christmas were a time of universal peace; restful calm; familial bliss; grateful hearts; and bright, glowing smiles?

Hmm . . . If this sounds like something you have rarely—or never—experienced, you are not alone. For many of us, the weeks preceding Jesus' birthday can be stressful. There are events to attend, gifts to buy, people to see, traditions to maintain, food to cook, decorations to display. Or perhaps it is a lonely time, full of sad memories and old frustrations that you must face every year. It may feel like a season of obligation, a fractured season, too full of "have to's" to leave any room for rest or gratitude.

The biblical account of Jesus' birth is, perhaps surprisingly, not all that different! Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem, the town was filled to bursting with people, the shepherds were working in the dark fields at night, and so on. So many "have to's"! None of this sounds very calm or bright.

So what made that first Christmas special? The same Person whose birth changed our own story forever. The place and people and environment may not have been extraordinary—but Jesus was and is.

In the devotions that follow, you will be encouraged to experience a different kind of pre-Christmas season: one in which all the "have to's" fade into the background of the calm we know and the brightness we see in the presence of our Savior!

Write and pray about these prompts:

What are your hopes for December this year?

What do you want to focus on?

What do you need your Savior's help with?

DECEMBER 1

Calm Knowledge

Be still, and know that I am God.
Psalm 46:10

Stillness may not be a sensation you associate with this season. *Noise*, yes. Busyness, schedule, deadline, rush. As the end of the calendar year approaches, our daily schedules fill up and speed up.

This sensation is exacerbated by the advertisements and sales and flashing lights and blaring versions of "Jingle Bells." No one seems to know where they're going. Everyone seems to have forgotten how to drive or wait in line.

Into the midst of all this, God speaks to us. *Shhhhhh*, he says. "Be still." There is only one thing we need to know, only one thing to remember, he says: "Know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

Our Lord is all-powerful. He has everything in his hands. This is not just a possibility: it is the *truth*. We can take a deep breath and rest in the knowledge that God is God. He loves us, and he is in charge, even in the craziest season.

Read This: Psalm 23

There are many words in this psalm that give the impression of stillness. Jot down the ones that you notice here . . .

Are you—or is someone you know—going through a "valley of the shadow of death" (Psalm 23:4) right now? What evils do you fear?

How would you finish this prayer? Lord Jesus, Shepherd, I need you to guide me to stillness when . . .