

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). Matthew 1:23 (NIV)

1. We need God with us when we are CONFUSED.

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:18-21 (NIV)

2. We need God with us when we are in CONFLICT.

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. Luke 1:26-29 (NIV)

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" Luke 1:34 (NIV)

3. We need God with us when we SIN.

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21 (NIV)

Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. Matthew 20:28 (KJV)

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. Luke 19:10 (KJV)

Then said Jesus to them again, "Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." John 20:21 (KJV)

4. **We need God with us in SORROW.**

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." Luke 2:10 (NIV)

5. **We need God with us in times of TROUBLE.**

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:13-14 (NIV)

That peace was never promised to everyone.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7 (NIV)

This is a GUIDELINE for active peace in your life.

This is the "HOW TO" of gaining peace.