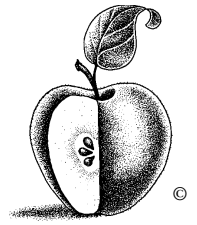


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## TASK OF ADVENT

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger  
*Seek That Which Is Above, 1986*

“Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary to man. Advent’s intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church’s year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart’s memory so that it can discern the star of hope....

It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope.”

## A CLEAR VISION

Peter Marshall

“Give to us clear vision that we may know where to stand and what to stand for. Let us not be content to wait and see what will happen, but give us the determination to make the right things happen.”

## LOVE YOUR FAMILY

Mother Teresa

“Love starts at home: family first, and then your own town. It is easy to love people who are far away, but it is not always easy to love those who live right next to us. I do not agree with the big way of doing things. Love needs to start with an individual.”

## OUTSTANDING LEADERS

Sam Walton

“Outstanding leaders go out of their way to boost the self-esteem of their people. If people believe in themselves, it’s amazing what they can accomplish.”

## WORLD IS DANGEROUS

Dr. Albert Einstein

“The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don’t do anything about it.”



## GENUINE HEROISM

Ralph Waldo Emerson  
POSITIVEPRESS.ORG

“The characteristic of genuine heroism is its persistency. All men have wandering impulses, fits and starts of generosity. But when you have resolved to be great, abide by yourself, and do not try to reconcile yourself with the world. The heroic cannot be common, nor the common heroic.”

## THE FIRST VIRTUE

Cato the Younger

“The first virtue is to restrain the tongue; he approaches nearest to the gods who knows how to be silent, even though he is in the right.”

## TRUE REPENTANCE

Rabbi Abraham J. Twerski  
GROWING EACH DAY – Tishrei 6 ([www.aish.com](http://www.aish.com))

“At an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting a man who had been sober for twenty-one years, said, ‘The man I *was* drank. The man I *was* will drink again. But now I am a different man.’

Consequently, repentance is not complete if one merely regrets having done wrong. One must ask, ‘How did this sin ever come about? In what kind of a state was I that permitted me to commit this sin?’

True repentance thus consists of changing one’s character to the point where, as the person is now, one can no longer even consider doing the forbidden act. Of course, the person’s character may deteriorate—and if it does, he may sin again....[H]is degree of repentance and correction of his character defects are such that, as long as he maintains his new status, he will not commit that sin.”

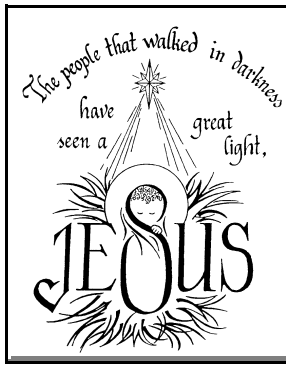
## SPIRITUALITY IS BORN

Ernest Kurtz  
*The Spirituality of Imperfection*, p. 20

“We seek help for what we cannot face or accomplish alone; in seeking help, we accept and admit our own powerlessness. And in that acceptance and admission, in the acknowledgment that we are *not* in control, spirituality is born.



“You cannot speak that which you do not know. You cannot share that which you do not feel. You cannot translate that which you do not have. And you cannot give that which you do not possess. To give it and to share it, and for it to be effective, you first need to have it. Good communication starts with good preparation.”



### THE GREAT PURPOSE Kirsopp Lake

“Faith is not belief in spite of evidence, but life in scorn of consequence—a courageous trust in the great purpose of all things and pressing forward to finish the work which is in sight, whatever the price may be.”

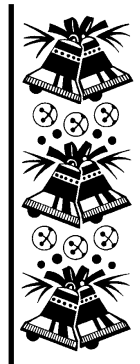
### START LIVING Henry James

“It’s time to start living the life you’ve imagined.”

### THE PRESENCE OF CHRISTMAS William Arthur Ward

“Christmas is not just a season,  
Christmas is not just a day,  
Christmas is more than a reason  
For parties, presents and play.

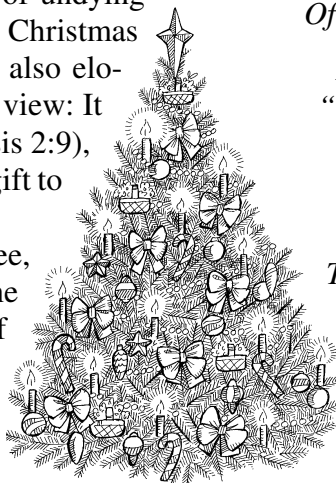
Christmas is truly the essence  
Of joy that the Savior brings;  
Christmas is surely the presence  
Of Jesus, the Kings of Kings!”



### MESSAGE OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Pope John Paul II in his Angelus message on 12/19/04 said: “The traditional ‘Christmas tree’ is a very ancient custom which exalts the value of life, as in winter the evergreen becomes a sign of undying life. In general, the tree is decorated and Christmas gifts are placed under it. The symbol is also eloquent from a typically Christian point of view: It reminds us of the ‘tree of life’ (see Genesis 2:9), representation of Christ, God’s supreme gift to humanity.

“The message of the Christmas tree, therefore, is that life is ‘ever green’ if one gives: not so much material things, but of oneself: in friendship and sincere affection, and fraternal help and forgiveness, in shared time and reciprocal listening.”



“Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was filled with sorrow at the tragic death of his wife in a fire in 1861. The Civil War broke out the same year, and it seemed this was an additional punishment. Two years later, Longfellow was again saddened to learn that his own son had been seriously wounded in the Army of the Potomac.

Sitting down to his desk, one Christmas Day, he heard the church bells ringing. It was in this setting that Longfellow

wrote these lines:

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!*

*And thought how, as the day had come  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!*

*Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime,  
A chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!*

*Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound  
The carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!*

*It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn  
The households born  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!*

*And in despair I bowed my head;  
“There is no peace on earth,” I said;  
“For hate is strong  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.”*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep.  
“God is not dead, nor doth he sleep!  
The wrong shall fail,  
The right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men!”*