

I STOPPED BELIEVING IN SANTA WHEN I WAS SIX.
MOTHER TOOK ME TO SEE HIM IN A DEPARTMENT
STORE AND HE ASKED FOR MY AUTOGRAPH.

Shirley Temple Black

Go then, eat your bread in happiness and drink your wine with a cheerful heart; for God has already approved your works (Ecclesiastes 9:7 NASB).

But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in time of trouble (Psalm 59:16 NIV).

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased" (Luke 2:13-14 ESV)!

One of the common questions asked during the holidays concerns the commercialism and secularism of Christmas into the season of Santa. Is it right for a believer to include Santa in their celebrations?

Solomon offers wisdom, but caution with his words. Every step, every decision, every click of the mouse can lead to judgment (Ecclesiastes 11:9). All things are permissible, but not everything is profitable.

If you are wise, if you have tasted that the Lord is good, do not hesitate to follow your eyes and your heart in your celebration. If you want to sing songs about Santa during the season which celebrates the coming of the Savior, do so with a cheerful heart. God enjoys seeing you smile.

But don't lose sight of the reason that you sing and are happy. You have not been saved by Santa. As you robustly sing, let every note, every crescendo, every stanza remind your soul that you are singing of God's strength.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

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SONGS AND SANTA

The legend of the kneeling Santa has helped the faithful keep perspective on the season.

The story is based upon a book, *Santa and the Christ Child* by Nicholas Bakewell. Involved in the motion picture industry, Bakewell enjoyed posing as Santa each holiday for malls and special events. Whenever he spoke with children, he ended their conversation reminding the child to "Wish Jesus a happy birthday this Christmas."

His personal experience as Santa inspired him to write the book. This simple legend will remind everyone of the glory behind this special time of year.

