



A Whirlwind
By Emily Mathison

Christmas can be a whirlwind time with sights, sounds, events, and gatherings.

In my family, when Christmas morning comes open our presents one person at a time so that we can all appreciate the love and sentiment that each person receives. There is no need to rush. The next present to be open could be for my mom, dad, sister, or me. In this way we all get to take part in that ubiquitous "what did you get?"

This one event of the year gathers my family and for a time there is no TV, no news, no Hallmark Movies, no Facebook, it is just family. I hope this year that everyone has a chance to have some "just family" time.



Prayer For Peace

God, grant me the grace to surrender,
So I can have peace for today.
Take away my fears and worries.
Give me faith that all is okay.

You know my need to fret, to fear.
You know I always expect the worst.
I need more faith, more confidence,
To know your power is at work.

Today you have a plan for me,
And I know your plan is best.
So if I drift or wander or stray,
Draw me back to your loving nest.

Keep me focused on your presence.
Keep me full of joy and light.
Your plan for me is always best.
And your ways are always right.

Today, I'll watch your plan unfold,
I will remember that you're working.
I'll reject the urge to brood and fret,
And find true peace in trusting.

