

christmas longings  
week 1: peace



the biggest obstacle to peace:

the voices of worry in your head  
(not circumstances)

parenting out of anxiety:

bad for everyone involved

living any part of life out of anxiety:  
ditto.

starting in the beginning

And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and *have dominion* over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

-Genesis 1:28

# dominion & worry

dominion: to rule over, to exercise control or authority

worry: signal that you *are at the limits* of your dominion

or you're *attempting to exceed the limits* of your dominion.

# taking off worry

- expand or embrace your dominion gifts
  - a new situation: class or job or marriage or having kids
  - take up authority appropriately over an anxious situation or circumstance

# taking off worry

- accept limits of your dominion abilities
- worry is the result of trying to have dominion over things outside your control

# taking off worry

- worry exposes our idols and is a call to repentance
- idol: taking a good thing and attempting to make it an ultimate thing  
thereby forfeiting the Ultimate Thing and losing the goodness of the good thing
- repentance: turning away from sin and idols to trust in God.



# exposing worry

- dominion: to rule over, to exercise control or authority
- worry: signal that you *are at the limits* of your dominion or you're *attempting to exceed the limits* of your dominion.
- 3 ways to take off worry:
  - take on greater authority/dominion
  - embrace the limits of your dominion
  - and/or repent of idolatry

# luke 1

<sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

<sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

# luke 1

<sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

<sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

# luke 1

<sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

<sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.

# luke 1 two run-way lights leading to peace

<sup>37</sup> "For nothing will be impossible with God."

<sup>38</sup> And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

1. the limitless-ness of God

2. submission

*the willing giving up of power in order to trust God for a greater promised good.*

*peace only comes by submission  
to a limitless God.*

God's promises:  
everything that happens will be decreed  
by him  
or redeemed by him

for your good,  
the benefit of others,  
and the glory of God.

the battle for peace  
is the battle of belief

will you trust Him?

will you embrace your limits

& submit even your powers of dominion  
to a limitless God

and then follow his lead

& watch what he might do?