



the MALANGO MINUTE



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CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

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The Malango Minute team
Wishes you...

Merry Christmas
and
Happy newyear!

The Christmas Spirit

How would you define 'the Christmas spirit'? Would it be a friendly smile between strangers, the sound of familiar carols, a tree with twinkling lights in a sea of brightly wrapped packages, or just that good feeling you get this time of the year?

None of these elements captures the real meaning of the phrase. J.I.Packer goes to the heart of this matter in his book *Knowing God*. He writes, 'We talk glibly of the Christmas spirit, rarely meaning more by this than sentimental jollity... It ought to mean the reproducing in human lives of the [temperament] of Him who for our sakes became poor, ... the spirit of those who, like their Master, live their whole lives on the principle of making themselves poor - spending and being spent - to enrich their fellow men, giving time, thought, care, and concern to do good to others ... in whatever way there seems need.'

In Philippians 2, Paul described the God of heaven and earth as laying aside his divine glory and becoming our servant by dying on the cross for our sins. Then he urged us to duplicate that same mind of humble service to others. That's the true Christmas spirit!

'Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.'

Philippians 2:5.

