

Having Christmas Fervor

By Pastor Bill Hayden

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It seems that some people experience Christmas fervor right after Halloween. Merchants swiftly remove their Halloween products and set up the Christmas decorations. They want to create early excitement by offering pre-Christmas deals to get a head start in the market.

The Christmas Season is a very stressful time of year for many people, including myself. I go to the storage area at my wife's request, move the boxes in the back, and pull out all the decorations. I reach the artificial Christmas tree, set it up, and check all the lights to ensure none are out.

People who procrastinate end up shopping in the department and grocery stores, waiting in long lines, driving around in parking lots looking for a parking space. Don't forget any items on the list or be ready to repeat the process. Online shopping has given some relief but does not entirely free you from the occasional things that come up during the week of celebration. Sometimes, I can get overwhelmed thinking about all the preparations.

After everything is said and done, I like the food, fun, and spending precious time with family and friends. However, the most challenging part is all the preparations before and the clean-up afterward. I try to enroll my grandchildren to come to dinner and play games a few weeks earlier to help decorate before the Christmas gathering. After all, they are younger and more agile, which has given them a greater appreciation for Nana and Papa over the years.

The best part of Christmas is celebrating God's gift of eternal life through His Son as we praise Him. We are blessed beyond measure as a country and family compared to other people and countries. So, may God continue to bless you as you develop your plan with family and friends this year.

Given all that we are to be confronted with, during these challenging times, be grateful for what you have and follow this rule: *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."*
{Philippians 4:6 NIV}.

Please celebrate with us and experience the Good Life at the Villages Community Chapel in Cribari Auditorium every Sunday at 10 a.m. to be encouraged over the Word of Life and enjoy coffee and cookies with friends. The chapel is a place for needs to be met, faith to be affirmed, and new friends to embrace. You can view our worship services on YouTube at www.villagescommunitychapel.vgcc.club

