



# PASTOR KATHY'S WEEKLY DEVOTION

Devotion for Dec. 26-Jan. 1:

12 Days of Christmas

Merry Christmas to you and your household. I hope Christmas Day brings peace, joy and love to each of you.

Among the songs you may have sung this season was *12 Days of Christmas*. Did you know the song was written as a code for children? When the Roman Catholics were banned from practicing their religion in England, someone wrote the carol with each element representing a religious theme:

The symbolism is:

A partridge in a pear tree – Jesus Christ

Two turtle doves – two testaments (Old and New Testaments)

Three French hens – faith, hope and love (1 Corinthians 13:13)

Four calling birds – four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)

Five golden rings – first 5 books of the Old Testament known as the Torah or Law

Six geese a-laying – six days of creation

Seven swans a swimming – sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit (prophecy, service, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership and mercy)

Eight maids a milking – eight Beatitudes

Nine ladies dancing – nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control)

10 lords a leaping – 10 Commandments

11 pipers piping – 11 faithful disciples

12 drummers drumming – 12 points of belief in the Apostle's Creed.

As we have the ability to openly worship, let us enjoy that freedom and celebrate God's grace.

Pastor Kathy