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The birth of Christ is the appearance in us of a different ability--the ability to appreciate (welcome, understand, value, comprehend and realize) what we normally suppress. When there is something about us we consider illegitimate, and therefore seek to suppress, and yet are unable to remove from ourselves, there forms in us an experience of that very thing being appreciated. This is even true, is especially true, with regards to what we consider our self-centered, self-seeking, hurtful and hateful tendencies. This appreciation persists, takes root and grows, and sets in motion the work of redeeming what we previously sought to suppress.

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