

MERRY? CHRISTMAS! REALLY?

Finding Joy in the Darkness of Doubt

Luke 1:26-38

Mary's Struggle

In the sixth month, *God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.* (Luke 1:28–29, NIV)

*Doubt is **perspective** without **faith**; and it can **poison** your joy every time.*

God's Answer

(1) See **yourself** the way God says He sees **you**.

*But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found **favor** with God."* (Luke 1:30, NIV)

***I am** who the **I AM** says that says **I am**.*

(2) See **God** the way God says **He** is.

*You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the **Son of the Most High**. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."* (Luke 1:31–33, NIV)

Whatever you are facing is **under God's feet!**

*Even when my life looks like I'm on the **bottom**; I can still look up and find God is **on top of it**.*

(3) See your **circumstances** the way God says He sees your **circumstances**.

*"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the **power** of the **Most High** will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God... For **nothing is impossible** with God."* (Luke 1:34–37, NIV)

**Nothing is impossible with God;
and that nothing includes your **something**!**

*The **facts** of life do not determine the **will** of God; the **will** of God determines the **facts** of life.*

Mary's Response

*"I am the **Lord's servant**," Mary answered. "**May it be to me as you have said**." Then the angel left her. (Luke 1:38, NIV)*

I can choose joy by **submitting**
myself and my doubts
to a **faithful** God.
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*Joy is found on the other side of the difficult decision to **trust** God instead of **trusting** myself.*