

## THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

# **THE JOY OF BELIEVING**

Luke 1:26-56

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*"And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord." Luke 1:45*

### **Have you made the all-important decision to believe God?**

*"Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God, that it will turn out exactly as I have been told." Acts 27:25*

#### **1. You can believe God even when you are afraid.**

*The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God." Luke 1:30*

*When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me? Psalm 56:3-4*

#### **2. You can believe God even when you don't understand.**

*And coming in, he said to her, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end." Luke 1:28-33*

#### **3. You can believe God even when His word seems impossible.**

*And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God. And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. For nothing will be impossible with God." Luke 1:34-37*

A. There is nothing too difficult for God.

B. There is no promise too great for God.

*And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel." Genesis 3:15*

*"Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised; not one word has failed of all His good promise, which He promised through Moses His servant." 1 Kings 8:56*

**C. There is no valid reason to disbelieve God.**

*And Mary said, "Behold, the bonds slave of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word." Luke 1:38*

**4. You can believe God and experience the joy.**

*Now at this time Mary arose and went with haste to the hill country, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it came about that when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. And she cried out with a loud voice, and said, "Blessed among women are you, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said: "My soul exalts the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has had regard for the humble state of His bonds slave; For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed. For the Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is His name." Luke 1:39-49*



A. True believers have great joy.

*... and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1:8-9*

B. True believers spread great joy.

**The joy of believing is waiting on you to simply believe.**