

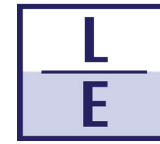
Mary's Response to the Angel

Luke 1:28-29

28 Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" 29 Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.

Luke 1:38

Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.



Lake Effect
C H U R C H

...And Then, He Came!
Part 3: The Gift of Doubt

December 19, 2021

Luke 1:26-38 NLT

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, 27 to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. 28 Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!"

29 Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. 30 "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

34 Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."

35 The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. 36 What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. 37 For the word of God will never fail."

38 Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

Doubt

Doubt is not in and of itself a bad thing. Doubt can be helpful. God can use doubt to draw us into a deeper relationship with him. I think doubt can be a great tool for growth.

After all, doubt or uncertainty causes us to: Ask hard questions, talk about things that are bothering you, and be honest. It is possible to be full of faith and doubt at the same time. Experiencing doubt is not a sign of a lack of faith. It is often just a sign that you need more answers to your questions.

Doubt often creates in us a deeper drive to know and understand more about God. Doubt often leads us to a deeper relationship with God.

Why Jesus' Genealogy is Important

1, Jesus' love is not determined by gender.

Galatians 3:28 NIV

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

2, Jesus' love is not determined by Ethnicity

Genesis 18:18 NIV

18 Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.

Genesis 22:18 NIV

and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

3, Jesus' love is not determined by your past behavior.

Hebrews 2:11 TPT

11 Jesus, the Holy One, makes us holy. And as sons and daughters, we now belong to his same Father, so he is not ashamed or embarrassed to introduce us as his brothers and sisters!