



Fear Not but Trust God

NOTES

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

WARM-UP

- Talk about a recent surprise (event, a piece of news) you had. What was it, and why did it surprise you?
- When was the last time someone fulfilled a promise to you? What happened?
- Talk about someone you trust very much. Why do you trust him/her?

WORD

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" **LUKE 1:26-28**

(Read also **LUKE 1:29-38**.)

Mary was just a young girl, maybe still a teenager, who was engaged to be married to the carpenter Joseph. In that time and culture, an engagement was as strong a promise as marriage. For a girl, marriage meant a secure future. However, the angel told Mary she would become pregnant by the Holy Spirit, as a virgin. Mary knew what could happen—she could be stoned to death for adultery. She chose to put her trust in God, and submitted to His instructions. The story of Mary shows us three reasons we can trust God.

1 God gives favor.

²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."

LUKE 1:29,30

Mary must have wondered if she had done anything so wrong that an angel would have to visit her. But the angel assured her twice that she had found favor with the Lord, and because of that, she should not be afraid. The Greek word for "favor" is *charis*, which also means grace. In Zechariah's story, we learned that God hears our prayers, and cares for us. Because He cares for us, we can become recipients of God's favor. What do you think it means to "find favor with God"?

.....

.....

.....

.....

2 God holds our future.

³¹"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David . . ." **LUKE 1:31,32**

The angel did not just tell Mary what would happen to her, like a doctor talking about a procedure. Instead, God took time to let Mary know her part in His plan, assuring her of her future. The words God used spoke directly about a promise made to King David, the long-ago ancestor of both Mary and Joseph. God was assuring Mary that she has a future and that she is secured in it, because she is part of His great plan to fulfill a promise made to Israel. Do you believe that God holds your future? How has this truth changed your life?

.....

.....

.....

.....

3 God can be trusted.

³⁷"For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. **LUKE 1:37,38**

In this part of the story, we see how much Mary placed her trust in God. Faced with the possible loss of future provision and security that marriage would give her, it would have been easy to be afraid, and to doubt God. However, when the angel told Mary that *nothing will be impossible with God*, she knew it applied even to her situation. She knew He held her future, that she was favored, and that nothing was impossible for God. How can Mary's response help you respond to your situation and trust God more?

.....

.....

.....

.....

APPLICATION

- Do you trust that God gives favor and holds your future? How can you grow in your understanding of God and trust Him more this week?
- In what area do you need to claim Luke 1:37 over your life? How can you apply this Word this week?
- How can you help a family member or friend fear not and trust God this week?

PRAYER

- Thank God for being the source of favor and for holding your future. Thank Him that because of this, you can trust and obey Him.
- Ask God to help you see His favor and love in your life, and to help you trust and submit to Him every day.
- Pray that you will be a channel of God's favor and love to your family and friends this Christmas season.



VICTORY

© 2016 by VICTORY®
All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to photocopy this material is granted for local church use. This is not for sale.
victory.org.ph