

### **1Yr03 – The Birth of God Luke 2:1-20**

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Title of the message this morning, “The Birth of God.” Some of you theology freaks are saying, “Wait a minute, I don’t know if that’s worded right.” Yeah, it’s worded that way on purpose. We are in our third message in our One Year With Jesus series, and I’m loving it, even just in the third message.

I need to remind you that we are putting up on the websites, both calvarynuevo.org , the church website, and the Bible teaching library site which is growing and looking phenomenal at wordbymail.com, at both those sites you can go to these messages and find resource page links. And on that resource page we are putting the scripture we discussed and cross-reference scripture I couldn’t fit in. We are putting the message in written form so you can read the message kind of cleaned up a little. We are putting commentary on the key scripture so you can see what the real smart guys say about it. And we are putting notes there for journaling and prayer during the week. It is so cool! So check it out at either one of the websites; the church site or wordbymail.com. Let us know what you think of the resource pages.

The first two messages we were leading up to the birth of God. And I say that for a little bit of a shock effect. It’s a little bit just to shake you up, so let me just clarify. God was never “born” in the sense that he had a beginning. And so if that’s news to you then hear that. God was never born in the sense of a new beginning. However, in our first message titled “Who Is Jesus Christ?” we made it clear that Jesus Christ is God. He is the co-equal, co-existing, co-eternal second member of the Godhead, the Trinity. But even then, if we talk about the “birth” of Jesus Christ we are still off a little bit, theologically. We should use the word, not “birth,” but probably “incarnation.” Incarnation. That doesn’t mean in a group of flowers. Incarnation means literally to take on flesh. So physically Jesus was born in the same manner that you and I were born. But theologically, from an eternal perspective, his divinity, his Deity, wasn’t born. His Deity took on flesh, it was incarnated. So we call it the incarnation. It means that God, who always existed, took on flesh. There is some very deep theology there.

Theology, by the way, just means the study of God. Understanding who God is. And so we talk about the birth, really the incarnation of Jesus Christ we talk about the co-existent, co-eternal second member of the trinity Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the second member being the Son, taking on flesh. Now here is what I need you to hear. If you learn this, then you will know, and it’s important for you to know.

When Jesus Christ was born, he brought his one hundred percent “Godness,” his one hundred percent Deity, the full nature of God, and listen (if you’re a math person this is going to give you a problem) he took on one hundred percent of human flesh, minus sin. And so when Jesus was born, as we say culturally, as when he was born he was one hundred percent God and one hundred percent man. He was the God-man. That’s a really, really important thing to understand. Fully God. Fully man. Perfectly united. And you can’t understand it. Can’t do it. If you could understand it then there would be four members of the Godhead instead of three, because they would add you. Who says we have to understand God? Some people say they don’t believe in God because they don’t understand him. Well, does that ant have to understand you to believe in you? No he doesn’t. And you can step on him and squish him and the whole time he won’t understand you. Right? We have to get this in our head that we don’t get to understand God because we are not his equal.

There is a theological word for this, but I want you to know, Jesus is one hundred percent God and one hundred percent man in perfect unity.

Let’s pray. *Heavenly Father, please, give us clarity right here, Lord. Give us clarity, Lord Jesus you are the God-man. One hundred percent Deity, one hundred percent human nature minus sin. And Lord we need to understand that. Lord, we don’t need to hear the Christmas story, we don’t need to hear the watered down version, we need to understand the “radicalness” of what you’ve done for us as you came to this earth to save us from our sin. And so Lord we pray right now that you would open our eyes that we would understand who you are as the God-man, one hundred percent God and one hundred percent man. Give us that revelation we pray. In Jesus’ name, amen.*

Let me blow your mind. This is something that no one told me for awhile, or I missed it. I wasn’t there that day when they explained this. I’m going to tell you something right now that is really, really out of control. For me, it’s out of control. When Jesus Christ was resurrected, and when he ascended back into heaven – and here it is – he retained in some way, forever, his glorified human body. Does that blow your mind? Did you guys assume that? Well, yeah, once the God of all creation, the Lord of heaven, the Creator, the author and giver of life, yeah, once he became a man, he in some way retained that glorified body of being a man. To me it seems like, wow! The price that Jesus paid wasn’t just thirty-three years and the phenomenal, immeasurable price he paid on the cross, but as he ascended back into heaven he retained the consequences (if you will) of becoming a man, the effect of becoming a man. And he retained in some way his glorified human body.

Now listen to me please, I'm just telling you what the Bible says. It's not a college class so I can't review all the cross references with you so you go check it out yourself. His glorified human body does not restrict in any way his Deity. He is still fully one hundred percent God with all of the attributes of God. The big one for me that I struggle with is His omnipresence. The one thing for me is if he is in the glorified body how can he be omnipresent, I can't understand it. And God says "Good because we don't have a fourth spot on the trinity. Anyway, that's why they call it 'trinity' there is only three. So live with your inability to understand it."

But here is what the Bible teaches. The Bible shows us that in some way Jesus Christ retains the glorified human body while still retaining the full Deity, the full attributes, of Deity. That's a big deal to me. Glorified human nature, full divine nature, inseparably united for eternity. Jesus is forever God and forever glorified man.

Listen to some verses. Write these down, read them later. Or go to the resource page on this message and you will see these cross references.

### **1 Corinthians 15:48-49 (NLT)**

***48 Earthly people are like the earthly man, and heavenly people are like the heavenly man.***

***49 Just as we are now like the earthly man, we will someday be like the heavenly man.***

People ask me all the time about heaven, and we taught that five message series. And one of the hardest things I have for people to understand is that heaven is real, and you are real there. Everything there is real, and you are real. And so 1 Corinthians 15 talking about the resurrection, that whole section of Chapter 15 says that when we are at the earth we are like the earthly man, when we are in heaven we will be like the heavenly man.

Write down 1 John 3:2.

### **1John 3:2 (ESV)**

***2 ... but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.***

This does not mean you will have the divine attributes of God. It means that you will be like him in form, in physical attributes – glorified attributes. When Christ appears you will be like him.

Revelation 19:11. If you don't know Revelation 19:11 and following, it's easy to turn there. It's right before the "Book of Maps." So turn there. Revelation 19. You should mark this, you should know this, you should be really, really familiar with this.

**Revelation 19:11(ESV)**

***11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True...***

***12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems...***

***13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God***

***14 And the armies of heave... were following him on white horses.***

Do you see the connection to the heavenly man Christ on a horse, and the armies of heaven following him on horses? Again similar glorified attributes.

**Revelation19:15 (ESV)**

***15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword***

Now some of you, in a certain sense, have a sharp sword coming out of your mouth. That's the one you need to crucify. James says crucify that sword. But the one that Jesus has coming out of his mouth that's the one that's going to take out all the armies of the world in one swoop.

**Revelation 19:16 (ESV)**

***16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.***

Certain people that share my DNA believe that mean Jesus has a tattoo on his thigh. But it can be translated "On his robe, at his thigh." I don't know if it's on or at, you decide depending on how you feel about tattoos. ***On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.***

I can't re-teach Revelation. I am just trying to show you that once Jesus Christ was born his attributes of the glorified human body were forever connected to his divine attributes. To me it says, permanent price. That he would do that for us. I don't know if it blows your mind, it blows my mind. It's not that I can't imagine it. I can imagine it. It's I can't imagine *why* he would do it. Lord of all creation, Lord of heaven and earth, why would you do this for me? Why would you do this for me – you knew me after all. You knew what I had done, where I had been. There is no reason for you to do this for me. To take on what I consider lower attributes than your divinity forever, so that I could join you in heaven for eternity. Honestly, it not like I have a self loathing thing, I just am pretty practical and honest with myself, and I can say" Honestly, Lord, I'm not worth it. For the Lord of Glory to take that on for eternity so that I can be a joint heir. What do you get out of it, Lord? You get me? That's it?"

This is a bum deal for God. From my perspective it is. But he loves you that much. He loves you that much. He doesn't see how much of a bum deal it is for him to give his life and take on the human nature even glorified for eternity in order to save you. He says you're worth it, and he'll never stop pursuing you. And you can never be separated from his love. And he will share all of eternity with you. He sees you with value so much higher than I see us, (myself included). That's how much the Lord loves us.

It puts me in absolute awe. In Genesis 1:27 it says we were made in the image of God, and sometimes I think "Lord, does that have something to do with it? Your glorified image forever is like our glorified bodies minus the divinity side?"

I mean I just struggle with it. And finally say, "Lord you love me and I don't deserve it. And you've saved me and I don't deserve it. And you've reserved an inheritance for me in heaven and I don't deserve it. And you've made me a joint heir with you and I don't deserve it. And you're going to share the reign of this world with me, and I don't deserve it. And so all I can do is surrender my life to you in unending, absolute awe of what you've done for me." That's a big deal.

So, that's what happened when Jesus was born. Jesus wasn't born so that we could have Christmas. This is what happened when Jesus was born. God came to earth. He took on human flesh, incarnate. He took on the flesh. He became one of us. He lived a sinless life even though Hebrew 4:15 says that he was faced with every temptation you and I are faced with yet without sin. And then, as the perfect sinless man and more so, honestly, as God – in having lived the perfect sinless life but as God – he became the one and only possible sacrifice that was sufficient enough to pay for the full wrath of your sin that was justly due from God.

See first and foremost, God is holy and just. And God cannot change his attributes of holiness and justness or he cannot be God. And so sin must be judged. But God is also love, 1 John 4 and every place else tells us. God is also love, and so you would think that God would have a dilemma. "How can I be holy and just and how can I be unconditionally loving?"

He didn't have a dilemma. He, himself, was the answer. Romans 3 say so that he could be both the just and the justifier of all who put their faith in Jesus Christ. See, Gods plan was from the beginning to give himself as the only acceptable sacrifice to pay for your sin so that you could spend eternity in heaven with him. That's what it's about. That's what the birth of Jesus was about.

And then because the penalty of death could not hold him, because he did not deserve to be dead, he rose from the grave. He conquered death and he was ascended back into heaven, still fully God, which he was when he was incarnated as a baby. But now ascending back into heaven with a glorified human body forever inseparably united to a full divinity. It's mind boggling!! As many times as I say it, I still can't explain it, because I don't understand it. That's not the Christmas story. That's the salvation story.

We are about to read some scripture that might remind you about Christmas, but can I just tell you that our culture, including our Christian culture, has watered down the birth of Christ. We've watered down the birth of Christ to make it acceptable and "smiley" and "oh look at the little baby in the manger, isn't that nice."

I'm not against Christmas. Listen. I love Christmas. I do. Because we do focus on Christ and Christmas, and so I'm not like one of "those guys." I'm just saying there needs to be more awe in the fact that God became a man and took on what, in my mind, is an eternal consequence of becoming a man just to save me. Don't let our culture water Christmas down to anything else. It was the birth of God.

### **Luke 2:1-2 (NLT)**

***1 At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire.***

***2 (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.)***

Just "by coincidence" the Roman emperor decreed that a census should be taken. All of the Roman Empire was about to be moved because God inspired Augustus to take a census. In Proverbs 21:1 it says the heart of a King is like water in a stream in God's hands. He moves it wherever he wants it to go.

There were more than one hundred million people in the Roman Empire when this decree went out. One hundred million people. And so God says, listen I'm inconveniencing every one of you, because there's two kids and a donkey that need to get to Bethlehem. By the way, the Bible never says they had a donkey, so it's alright. They probably did. There's this young couple up in the north of Nazareth and they are whirling from these angelic visits, and they are too young to know any different except to be afraid. And suddenly they are forced to go to Bethlehem, 80 miles to the south. The census decreed by Rome (by God through Rome) meant everyone had to get somewhere. Look at Luke 2:3.

### **Luke 2:3 (NLT)**

***3 All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census.***

That's the way the census was done. Verse 4.

**Luke 2:4 (NLT)**

***4 And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee.***

Again, God sets the entire Roman Empire in motion so that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. Not so that we could tell the Christmas stories, but because prophecy after prophecy said that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, the House of Bread.

**Micah 5:2 (ESV)**

***2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.***

In fact, THE Ancient of Days. Jesus had to be born in Bethlehem because it was one of three hundred prophecies he had to fulfill in his birth, life, death and resurrection. Three hundred prophecies. Every one fulfilled. Not one missed. Written at least 300 years before most of them were fulfilled. That means a lot.

**Luke 2:5 (NLT)**

***5 He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was now obviously pregnant.***

Fiancée, not such a great word because it implies engagement to us. An engagement can be easily broken. The word is *betrothed*. A betrothal was a legal contract equal to marriage, though there was no consummation of the marriage yet. And so Mary is betrothed, legally bound to Joseph and she is very obviously pregnant.

**Luke 2:6 (NLT)**

***6 And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born***

The time came. It doesn't mean just that her nine months were over. It means the fullness of time had come. It was the perfect time. The world was in the right place, God's plan had been being spelled out for thousands of years.

Write down Galatians 4:4 in your margin in Luke 2.

**Galatians 4:4-5 (ESV)**

***4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,  
5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.***

That's why God was born. It was time for God's plan that had been set outside of time to enter the realm, the existence of mankind. So Mary is in her teens. She is a faithful but frightened young girl. Everything we know about her in the Bible indicates that she was a faithful but frightened young girl. Joseph, probably in his twenties, they had both been visited by the angel. They had both been told what this child meant.

They had both been told by the angel to name this child, Jesus. Yeshua comes from the Hebrew Yehoshua. Yehoshua, Old Testament, means Joshua. Yeshua, New Testament, Jesus. It means the Lord Saves. In the Greek it's way different. Iésous. "Name him Jesus," the angel said to Joseph, "because he will save his people from their sins. Name him Jesus. This girl is going to have the Messiah. You have to name him Jesus, Yahweh Saves."

To Mary the angel says "This child will reign over Israel forever. His kingdom will never end."

I don't know how much of this Mary and Joseph really grasped, but really with all caution, Mary was clueless. She was faithful, but she was clueless and Joseph even more so. But they had been clearly told the pregnancy is from the Holy Spirit. The child is the Messiah and he is going to rule over an eternal kingdom. That had to cause a little stress.

So here's the picture. You're carrying the messiah, by the Holy Spirit of God, he's going to rule over an eternal kingdom, so let's put you on a donkey in your ninth month of pregnancy and have you travel eighty miles over rough dirt roads. And then, it gets worse.

Young, first time mothers, in their ninth month of pregnancy you kind of walk on rice paper around. You're just really careful and walk on eggshells. Here's one thing you don't do, you don't put them on a donkey to travel eighty miles. And then when you show up where you're going, you don't show up without a hotel reservation. They showed up to Bethlehem late, and you know the story. There was no place for them to stay.

"You've got to be kidding me! I'm miraculously pregnant with the Savior of the world and I can't find a bed to lay down in?" That's the real news, guys.

Listen, God just moved the entire Roman Empire, one hundred million people and the Emperor Augustus in order to get Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. You would think he could manage to get them a room at the local motel. You would think that would not be above God's ability, right?



**Luke 2:7 (NLT)**

***7 She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.***

Don't get all "Christmassy" on me. "Awww, that's so cute. A little baby lying with all the palm trees and little shed with the palm fronds and all the servants."

You know better. A manger is a manger. Some of you have Nuevo style mangers. We have mangers in this town. We have mangers on the church property. Some of the people were cleaning them up yesterday. A manger is a barn. That's the best thing we can compare it to. So a manger is like a barn, with all the things that animals do in a barn. That's what a manger is.

Now let me just throw this out, you have a miraculously conceived child by the Holy Spirit, you've been told by an angel not once but twice that he's the Messiah, the ruler of an eternal kingdom, and you're going to walk into a barn and lay down in a stall and have him born there. What is wrong with this picture?

It's not how you want to give birth. It's not how Mary and Joseph wanted to give birth. It's how God wanted to be born. Listen, this is my only point today. It's how God wanted to be born. You see *our condition from God's perspective is very similar to a barn*. A barn that is in use. In fact, maybe a barn that the animals have been given old expired food and some curdled milk. You know what I'm saying? Their tummies aren't feeling that good. That's kind of more like our place from God's perspective. God says, "That's where I need to come. I need to start right there in the barn. Right there in the thick of it."

God could have built the Taj Mahal. God could have built the Taj Mahal in Bethlehem for one night for one baby. He could have had the finest building ever built, built. But he chose not to. He did not do that. It's not that God wasn't in control. It's that he *was* in control. It's not that the rooms "just happened" to be full, it's that God made them full. Because he said if I am coming to these people I am coming to where they're at. And where they're at is similar to a barn in full use. And that's where I want to meet them. I want to meet them right there where they're at.

God is sending you a message and it's not the cleaned up, cutesy Christmas message. He's saying I want to come in the most humble, lowest possible way so that no one can say I can't relate to them. I want to come in the lowest, humble – really the word that comes to my mind is "disgusting" – way. I am coming in the worst possible conditions so you can never say to me that I haven't experienced what you've experienced.

There is no one who can say “Lord you don’t understand.”

He does understand. He understands. And there is no one that is not good enough for the Lord. He didn’t come above anybody. Did you ever have your mom say, “What were you born in a barn? Close the door!”

Jesus was born in a barn. And there was probably no door. And there was nowhere to lay him but a feeding trough. Because God wanted you to know that he came in the lowest possible way so that no matter how low you are today he will meet you there. No matter how humble this life has made you, God will meet you there. No matter how far in the barn you’ve been down, God came to meet you there. There is no clean yourself up for God. It doesn’t exist, certainly not in the Bible, it doesn’t exist.

God says, listen. I’ve been with you the whole time anyway, so I already know. I was already there with you. Why don’t you just surrender to me right where you’re at with all the stuff?

God’s become a man now, in a barn, laid in a feeding trough, literally. So now where did he announce it? I mean, God’s here. God has come. The Glory of Heaven come to earth in a babe. What mountain did he proclaim it from? None. What place did he shout it from? None. Where did he go, who did he tell? Listen carefully please. He told the workers who held one of the lowest, most humble positions in society. He told the shepherds. He went to the shepherds.

Now today we think as Christians, oh shepherds, that’s kind of a respectful position, because we’ve been in church and we appreciate that. But somewhere in my lineage, I thank God for it; they name me after a shepherd. They named my family after a shepherd. My name used to be spelled the same way. But in that day, it wasn’t a position of respect. It was lonely, quiet, kind of an outcast position. “You go take care of the sheep!” The low people became shepherds. And so God came in the humblest, lowest possible form and then he announced the arrival of heaven on earth to the lowest possible occupation.

**Luke 2:8-14(NLT)**

***8 That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep.***

(This is so cool because there is still this area called the Shepherds Fields that kind of lies between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. And on one of my past trips to Israel we stayed in a hotel that overlooked the shepherd’s fields. And I actually had a room that overlooked these fields between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. And we were there two days, and the

whole time I watched the shepherds work these exact same fields. And imagine heaven cracking open! That's a big deal!)

**9** *Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified,*

**10** *but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.*

**11** *The Savior--yes, the Messiah, the Lord--has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!*

**12** *And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."*

**13** *Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others--the armies of heaven--praising God and saying,*

**14** *"Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."*

The angel of the Lord, the radiance of the Lord's glory joined by the armies of heaven, praising God and singing to some shepherds and some sheep. All of heaven, and the skies crack open, the heavens are singing. And then there's silence. Maybe a sheep makes a noise. No applause. No encore. The shepherds are standing there stunned. And the heavens close again. The shepherds are left dumbfounded and the sheep are doing what sheep do.

And then we read in verse 15 of Luke 2:

**Luke 2:15 (NLT)**

**15** *When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."*

**16** *They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.*

Now here's something I want you to mark

**Luke 2:17 (NLT)**

**17** *After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child.*

Can you see God's plan of salvation right there? Please tell me you can see it. These shepherds didn't go on a whirlwind book tour. They didn't get a TV show, book deal, or

straight to DVD movie. They heard and they told someone. They saw and they told someone. Heaven opened up and all the shepherds could think to do was go tell someone.

Do you see right there God's plan for bringing the gospel to the world? Here it is. You see God, you tell someone. You hear from God, you tell someone. You see the glory of God, you tell someone. That's God's plan. One at a time. That's why Jesus was born the way he was born. That's why the announcement was to the shepherds, because there was no – in God's plan – what we call "High Church." Are you familiar with High Church? High Church is like, very ritualistic. None of that!

It was some shepherds out there in the field going "Whoa!" and a baby being born with hay covered in manure to give him a clean place. That's the reality of the gospel. And we need to say, "Lord that I can relate to. I think I've been in that barn."

**Luke 2:18 (NLT)**

***18 All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished,  
19 but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often.***

Guys, God's salvation had arrived in a way that every single person could reach it. And then, what did the shepherds do? After seeing the heavens open, the glory of God, going to Bethlehem, seeing the Messiah, look what they did in Luke 2 verse 20.

**Luke 2:20 (NLT)**

***20 The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.***

The shepherds went back to work. It's like, okay. We just brought the whole choir of heaven, you just saw the messiah now go back to what you were doing. Go back to work. But they were changed forever.

***The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.***

Can I tell you that the rest of their lives they were changed? Can you accept that? Everybody they saw they told. Everybody they saw. And that's still how God works. God came into our lowly humble existence. He used the most lowly and humble people to share the good news and he did it so that you would know that no matter how low you feel, no matter what level of low you've come from, Jesus will meet you there. He came to earth – there. He began his work there. No one is outside his reach. He did it so you would know that you can come to him just as you are. That there's nothing that you can

do that would shock him. That you don't have to clean up your act before you come to Christ. That he will take you right where you're at.

Let's pray. *Lord you want us right where we are at. You came right where we were at. You came to the barn and you announced the most incredible, eternal thing that ever happened to some lowly shepherds in the field. Help us to see that right now Lord.*

(As you keep praying, let me ask you, what have you done that you think is keeping you away from God? What have you done that you think God can't handle? What have you done that you think God will judge you for? Can I tell you something please? The only judgment is for refusing to believe that God died for you to pay for your sins. All the other sins deserve judgment, but that's the final one. Because in that one sin, you accept the payment of all the other sins in your life. Jesus Christ wants to take you right where you're at and make something incredible out of you. He wants to take you right where you're at and transform you. He wants to meet you right where you're at and say, "I love you. I love you with the barn environment on you. I love you in the fields alone with the sheep. I love you separated from society. I love you personally. I came to die for you personally. I love you that much. I love you enough to become a man and retain that glorious nature for eternity. That's how much I love you." And so if you feel like anything is keeping you from God, right now, let it go. Please let it go and pray with me.)

*Lord Jesus, I'm in awe. I'm amazed at what you've done. I'm amazed that you would do it for me. And I'm amazed Lord that you would chose to come into my life, to make me your temple, your dwelling place. I'm amazed that you would save me, I'm amazed that you care enough, I'm amazed that you would share your inheritance of all eternity with me. Lord, what can I say to these things? All I can say is thank you. Thank you Jesus. Please forgive me of my sins. Please come into my life just as I am, warts and all, please come into my life and transform me. Make me a new creation, in your own name I pray, amen.*