

**Fear Not—1**  
**The Unbearable Weight of Fear**

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7 NLT*

**God's purpose is often very different from our plans.**

*In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. <sup>28</sup>Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. Luke 1:26-29 NLT*

**What we call God's disturbing interruptions are often God's divine invitations.**

*Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. Luke 1:29 NLT*

**You don't have to understand the plan to trust that God has a purpose.**

*"Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God!" Luke 1:30 NLT*

**Favor is the undeserved blessings God lavishly pours out on His children.**

*"You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!" Luke 1:31-33 NLT*

**Sometimes God's favor doesn't seem favorable ... at first.**

*Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." Luke 1:34 NLT*

*And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ... For nothing will be impossible with God." Luke 1:35, 37 ESV*

**Outcome is God's responsibility; obedience is ours.**

*Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." ... Luke 1:38 NLT*