

**Hope** – (Future) God will keep His promises

**Peace** – (Present) God is in control right now

**Joy** – God is at work even here

**Love** is both the foundation and the fulfillment of God's promises to mankind

God's love creates hope, secures peace, and fuels joy

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God... And having come in, the angel said to her, Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you Luke 1:26–28 NKJV

Mary wasn't looking **for a miracle**. She was living an **ordinary life** in an **ordinary town** when God stepped in to show us His love

The story begins with God sending. Mary does not summon Gabriel. She does not earn this moment. God initiates

**Mary is called highly favored**, not because of what she has done, but because of what God is about to do through her

Favor is not payment for performance; it is grace given freely

God is God pursuing humanity

Luke 1:29–30 NKJV But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying... Then the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God

Mary's first reaction is fear. God does not scold her for it. He speaks to it

Do not be afraid... the Lord is with you

God's love replaces fear with His Presence

God's love doesn't deny the fear; He addresses it with His presence

Notice the angel **doesn't say**, "This will be easy." He says, "**God is with you.**"

Some of us this season are carrying fear: fear of the future, fear of loss, fear of failure, fear of the unknown

God's love answers fear the same way it did for Mary, not by **removing all the questions**, but by giving us **His very own presence**

Luke 1:31–33 NKJV And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest...

God's love gives the world a Savior

This is the heart of the announcement. **Love has a name, and His name is Jesus**

God's love is **not abstract**. He takes **on flesh**. God does not send advice; **He sends a Savior**

What kind of Savior is this - **He will be great - He will reign - His kingdom will have no end**

This child is **not just Mary's son**, He is **God's answer to sin, death, and a broken world**

God's love is not sentimental, it's redemptive, he sends us a redeemer

Luke 1:34 NKJV Then Mary said to the angel, How can this be, since I do not know a man?

God's love asks for trust beyond our understanding

Mary's question is honest, not rebellious. She believes God, but she doesn't understand the method

God's love calls us to **genuine faith**; it invites **trusting obedience**. Mary doesn't say "No." She says, "How?"

And God responds **not with a full explanation**, but with a promise

Luke 1:35 NKJV The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you...

God's answer to Mary's question is **not a biological explanation; it's a theological one**

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me Psalm 51:5 NKJV

David isn't throwing shade at his mother's morality. He's confessing a universal human condition:

- We don't become sinners after we sin
- We sin because we are already sinners by nature
- From conception, we inherit a fallen, corrupted nature that bends us toward sin

This lines up with the broad scope of Scripture passages

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men Romans 5:12 NKJV

Every person conceived through ordinary human means enters life under Adam's fallen nature

That's why humanity can't produce its own Savior—we keep making more sinners, cute sinners, sure... but sinners

What is the identity of Jesus?

If Jesus were conceived like every other child:

- He would inherit Adam's sinful nature
- He would be "born in sin" just like David describes
- He would need forgiveness rather than be able to offer it
- He could not be the Lamb "without blemish and without spot"

But Scripture is non-negotiable here: **Hebrews 4:15 NKJV ...yet without sin. 2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV ...Him who knew no sin...** A sinful Savior is no Savior at all

So, the virgin conception is God's solution to the human impossibility

God does something breathtaking

...**"How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered... "The Holy Spirit will come upon you... therefore... that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."**  
**Luke 1:34–35 NKJV**

The Virgin's Conception accomplishes three essential things

### **Jesus is truly human**

He grows in Mary's womb. He is born. He lives, suffers, and dies as a real man  
He is the Son of David, Son of Abraham, the promised Messiah

### **Jesus is not conceived in the line of Adam**

No human father = no inherited sinful nature  
He is not "**conceived in iniquity**", He is conceived by the Holy Spirit in holiness

This breaks the chain of Adam's corrupted lineage while still giving Jesus full humanity

### **Jesus is the Holy One from conception**

Notice the angel's wording: not "He will become holy," but "**that Holy One who is to be born**"

From the moment Jesus begins to exist as a human, He exists in perfect holiness

Why does this matter for the gospel message?

Because Jesus is not conceived in sin

- He can bear our sins, since He has none of His own
- He can give us His righteousness, because His is perfect
- He can be the spotless Lamb who takes away the sin of the world
- He can reverse the curse Adam brought into the world

Adam gave us inherited sin. **Christ gives us inherited righteousness**

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous Romans 5:19 NKJV

The Virgin Conception isn't a Christmas ornament. **It's a theological necessity**

No virgin birth = no sinless Savior

No sinless Savior = no substitution for our sin

No substitution = no salvation

But because Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit

- He is fully human to represent us
- Fully divine to save us
- Fully sinless to redeem us

**God's love reminds us that salvation is not something we accomplish**

**It is something God accomplishes for us**

And then Gabriel seals it with one of the most hope-filled declarations in all of Scripture

Luke 1:37 NKJV For with God nothing will be impossible

Our response to Surrender

Luke 1:38 NKJV Then Mary said, Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word

This is one of the most courageous responses in Scripture

Mary says yes to God, knowing it will cost her

- reputation

- comfort
- control

Love, when received, produces surrender

Mary does not fully know the road ahead, but she knows the One who walks it with her