

My Christmas List

More Faith, Less Fear

Craig Smith • December 9, 2018

Fear...

- **Mary's pregnancy is Joseph's dilemma** – “This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. (Matt. 1:18-19)

☛ **A life ruled by fear cannot be a life lived in freedom** – “Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.” (Heb. 2:14-15)

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit”...All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel” – which means, “God with us.” (Matt. 1:20, 22-23)

The faith of...

- **Joseph: trust the promises of God over the evidence of the eyes** – “When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave Him the name Jesus.” (Matt. 1:24-25)

- **Mary: trust the power of God over the size of the challenge** – “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end...The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you...For nothing is impossible with God.’ ‘I am the Lord’s servant,’ Mary answered, ‘May it be to me as you have said.’” (Luke 1:30a-33, 35, 37-38)

By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days. (Heb. 11:30)

📍 **Sometimes while I've been waiting for God to show up, He's been waiting for me to grow up** – “But I will not drive them out in a single year, because the land would become desolate and the wild animals too numerous for you. Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land.” (Exod. 23:29-30)

“Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!” (Luke 1:45)