

March 22nd – The Virgin Birth of Jesus

“Then Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I do not know a man?’ And the angel answered and said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.’”
(Luke 1:34-35)

Ever since the days of Jesus, many people have been skeptical of Christ and the Christian faith. Some of the first skeptics were religious leaders who thought Jesus was a rebel-rouser. Even his own brothers didn't believe He was really the Son of God (John 7:5). For two millennia, skeptics have worked hard to destroy the Christian faith. Many have questioned the element of the miraculous in the Christian faith, and at the heart of the debate is the virgin birth of Jesus.

What is the virgin birth? The doctrine of the virgin birth teaches that Jesus was not conceived the natural way – by a man and a woman. Instead, Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit. If that's confusing to you, don't worry because it confused a young Jewish girl named Mary. When she was told that she would conceive and have a child, she said, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” She knew she had been sexually pure so she had no idea how she could become pregnant.

The angel Gabriel answered her question – “the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you.” Consequently, Jesus “will be called the Son of God.” Being born of Mary, Jesus was fully man – being conceived of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was fully God. Understand this – the virgin birth is vital to our Christian faith, for without it Jesus is not God, and if He's not God, then He's not able to make atonement for our sins and we're still bound for hell. We should all thank God that Jesus truly is the virgin born Son of God and Son of Man.