

Christmas Miracles: Highly Favored

Jesse Berthold / December 24, 2023

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HIGHLY FAVORED

Luke 1:26–28 (NKJV) ²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name *was* Mary. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, **highly favored one**, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!"

1. **DOES GOD HAVE FAVORITES?**

2. **WHAT DOES FAVOR MEAN?**

Favorite = "One upon whom favor rests"

3. **WHAT IS FAVOR?**

Luke 1:26–30 (NKJV) **26** Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name *was* Mary. **28** And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!" **29** But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. **30** Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have **found favor with God**."

- **Favor = Greek = Charis = Grace**

Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved **through faith**, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,

4. **WHAT IS FAITH?**

- **Believing God!**

Luke 1:29–38 (NKJV) ²⁹ But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰ Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible.” ³⁸ Then **Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.”** And the angel departed from her.

5. **FAITH DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T ASK QUESTIONS**

Luke 1:30-34 ³⁰ Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ **Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?”**

Luke 1:11–18 (NKJV) ¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And when Zacharias saw *him*, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴ And you will have joy and

gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. ¹⁵ For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, *'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,'* and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." ¹⁸ **And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this?"** For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years."

Luke 1:18 (MSG) Zacharias said to the angel, **"Do you expect me to believe this?"** I'm an old man and my wife is an old woman."

Luke 1:19–20 (NKJV) And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. ²⁰ But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time."

6. **FAITH DOESN'T MEAN YOU WILL NEVER HAVE PROBLEMS IN YOUR LIFE**