

Pastor Norman Nakanishi

When God Comes Down

"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. "And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" 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[b] will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her." Luke 1:31-38 ESV

1. God draws us to Himself and calls us for His purpose

"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" Luke 1:31-34 ESV

2. The power of the Holy Spirit makes all things possible

"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[b] will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her." Luke 1:35-37 ESV

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you." John 14:16-17 ESV

3. By faith embrace what God says

"And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her." Luke 1:38 ESV

"And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." Luke 1:45 ESV

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God..." John 1:12 ESV

Let's Talk About It

In Sunday's message, Pastor Norman spoke about Luke 1:31–38, where God draws Mary to Himself and into His divine purpose by choosing her to bear His son, Jesus. When Mary wonders how this can be, the angel explains that the Holy Spirit's power will accomplish what is impossible by human means, and will reveal that God's work depends on His power, not our abilities. In faith and humility, we, like Mary can submit ourselves to God's will and embrace what he is wanting for our lives.

Luke 1:31-38, John 14:16-17, Luke 1:45, John 1:12

Discussion questions:

1. Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
2. Like Mary, when in the past have you had to ask God the question: "How will this be?" What happened and what did you learn?
3. Where do you need to ask God that question now? Take time and pray with one another about that.
4. How can we practically rely on the power of the Holy Spirit—rather than our own ability—when responding to what God is calling us to do right now?

Take a Step

What area of your life is God asking the impossible of you? It may not be something as extraordinary as carrying God's own Son, but perhaps He is asking you to forgive someone who hurt you, to give generously when it feels uncomfortable, or to step into a difficult conversation. Take time to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you embrace what feels hard and to join Him in the adventure of trusting and obeying God.

Here's My Prayer

Lord, thank You for being the God who makes the impossible, possible. And thank you for allowing us into Your plans and letting us partake in what we would not be able to do ourselves. In this Christmas season, we are reminded of this truth in such a remarkable way, through the birth of your Son. Please help us not to miss out on our own miracle because of fear and lack of faith. You make all things possible!! In your holy name, Amen.