



Like Mary and Her son, I will be blessed if ...

1. _____

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah...; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old... ⁸Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God...¹¹ ...an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. ¹⁴He will be a joy and delight and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord... ¹⁸Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." ¹⁹The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time." **Luke 1:5-8, 11-15, 18-20** (NIV)

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² 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, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." ³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail." **Luke 1:26-37** (NIV)

• **What enables me to say yes to God?** _____

2. _____

Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her. **Luke 1:38** (NLT)

Think as Christ Jesus thought. ⁶Jesus has always been as God is. But He did not hold to His rights as God. ⁷He put aside everything that belonged to Him and made Himself a servant.... He became human by being born as a man. ⁸After He became a man, He gave up His important place and obeyed by dying on a cross. ⁹Because of this, God lifted Jesus high above everything else. He gave Him a name that is greater than any other name. ¹⁰So when the name of Jesus is spoken, everyone in heaven and on earth and under the earth will bow down before Him. **Philippians 2:5-10** (NLV)

• **Choosing service, consistently requires** _____

Mary was greatly troubled at his words... **Luke 1:29a** (NIV)

Jesus walked ...away, and knelt down and prayed, ⁴² "Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." **Mark 14:41, 42** (NLT)

• **What enables me this decision?** _____

For we must always cherish the words of our Lord Jesus, who taught, 'Giving brings a far greater blessing than receiving.'" **Acts 20:35** (TPT)

3. _____

The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." **Luke 1:28** (NIV)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God **Ephesians 2:8:9** (NIV)

For by favor you have been saved, through belief, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of Elohim **Ephesians 2:8:9** (TS)

• **What enables God to do this?** _____

Without faith it is not possible to be well-pleasing to him, for it is necessary for anyone who comes to God to have the belief that God is, and that he is a rewarder of all those who make a serious search for him. **Hebrews 11:6** (BBE)

Mary sang this song: "My soul is ecstatic, overflowing with praises to God! ⁴⁷ My spirit bursts with joy over my life-giving God! ⁴⁸ For he set his tender gaze upon me, his lowly servant girl. And from here on, everyone will know that I have been favored and blessed. ⁴⁹ The Mighty One has worked a mighty miracle for me; holy is his name! **Luke 1:46-49** (TPT)

Saving Faith is not simply a confession of belief in God ...