

# Saying Yes in Uncertain Times

## Luke 1:26-38 (NKJV)

<sup>26</sup> Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; [a]blessed are you among women!"

<sup>29</sup> But [b]when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying and considered what manner of greeting this was. <sup>30</sup> Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son and shall call His name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup> Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I [c]do not know a man?"

<sup>35</sup> 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. <sup>36</sup> 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. <sup>37</sup> For with God nothing will be impossible."

<sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

### 1. God works through ordinary people

Mary wasn't a queen or someone powerful, she was a young woman from a small town. This shows that significance in God's plan isn't about status, but willingness.

### 2. Favor doesn't mean an easy life

Gabriel calls Mary "highly favored," yet the news brings potential risk: social shame, confusion, and hardship. Being chosen for something meaningful can also come with challenges.

### 3. It's okay to ask questions

Mary asked, "How will this be?" a practical question. That's like doing your research, seeking advice, or thinking through consequences. But she didn't stay in analysis mode forever. There's a balance between being thoughtful and overthinking yourself into inaction.

#### **4. God's power goes beyond human limits**

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you...” and “nothing will be impossible with God.” The passage emphasizes that divine possibilities aren't restricted by natural laws.

#### **5. Humility and surrender matter**

Mary's response “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word” shows trust and surrender even without knowing all the details. That's often seen as the core message: willingness over certainty.

#### **6. God's plans often involve partnership**

Mary still had a role to play. The passage highlights a cooperation between divine purpose and human response.

#### **7. You don't need perfect conditions to start**

Mary didn't have everything figured out. No stable plan, no clear roadmap. In real life, that looks like applying for a job you feel underqualified for, starting a project before you feel “ready,” or stepping into responsibility while still learning. Waiting for perfect clarity can keep you stuck.

#### **8. Big opportunities often come disguised as disruption**

What looked like an honor also turned Mary's life upside down. Today, the things that stretch you—relocating, changing careers, taking on leadership—can feel inconvenient or even scary. Growth and discomfort usually come together.

#### **9. Your response matters more than your confidence**

Mary wasn't portrayed as fearless—just willing. In real life, you don't need to feel 100% confident to act. Saying “yes” while nervous still counts. Progress is often built on imperfect courage.

#### **10. Meaningful choices may come with social pressure**

Mary risked misunderstanding and judgment. Today, that might look like choosing a different career path, values, or lifestyle than people expect. Doing what aligns with your convictions can sometimes cost approval.

#### **11. Stay grounded in something bigger than your fear**

Mary's final response shows trust in something beyond her immediate emotions. Practically, that could mean anchoring your decisions in your values, faith, or long-term purpose—especially when your feelings are uncertain.