



Wayne's Words

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Sunday 19th December, 2021



The Personal Discovery of How Amazing God Is

Luke 1:26-55

Mary is rightly esteemed as an example of godly faith and humble surrender to God's will.

Yet Mary is no puppet or shrinking violet. Her response to the angelic news is realistic and her faith takes time to develop in a gradual process. She moves from initial consternation at an unexpected visitation to incredulity at the news she is brought. She asks the most practical and pertinent question. 'How will this be since I am a virgin?' Moreover, this question is not dismissively sceptical, but open to clarification. When the message is further explained and made verifiable by the news of her relative Elizabeth's pregnancy, she accepts its authority and places her trust in what has been said.

This is no small step. She would have been aware of the ignominy that would surround an unmarried girl in a small village expecting a child. There were only two possible conclusions for others to reach, both being against the law and liable to serious repercussions.

At this point Mary's faith is that of obedient submission, walking by faith and not by sight.

It is when Mary receives Elizabeth's prophetic greeting and sees that the angel's word was true that her faith explodes into her heart. The words of wonder and praise that burst from her lips are what we have come to know as the Magnificat. 'My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.'

In much of our lives our walk is by faith and not by sight. It is the obedience of faith. Yet when we dare to respond to God's leading as we nurture a relationship with Him through his Word, corporate worship and prayer, we get glimpses of God's faithfulness, love and power. In fact, as we exercise daily thanksgiving and trust we come to see God's love and faithfulness in so many places, people and circumstances. With Mary we have much cause to magnify the Lord. *'The Mighty One has done great things for me. Holy is his name.'*

God bless,

Wayne