

WORD

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” . . .

Luke 1:38
(Also read Luke 1:26-38.)

WHAT What does the Bible say?

Mary was young, poor, and female—three characteristics that, to the society of her day, would make her unusable by God. But the Lord chose Mary for her simple and exceptional obedience to His will. Let us see how God used Mary and how He can use us too in our generation when we act in faith in response to Christ.

- **God’s favor is given to us through Christ.**
The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”
Luke 1:28

Mary is favored of God. He chose her to bear Jesus because of His grace and not because of any natural merit that she has. The Word says that Mary received God’s grace; she is not the source of this grace. Likewise, on whose merit did God choose us to be His children (Titus 3:4-7; Ephesians 2:8,9; 2 Corinthians 6:1,2)?

- **God’s Spirit comes upon us as we receive Christ.**
The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. . . .”
Luke 1:35

The phrase ‘come upon’ means that God’s glory saturates a place or a person. God’s power through the Holy Spirit made it possible for Mary to have a son beyond natural means. The miracle of the virgin birth through the conception of the Holy Spirit means that from the very beginning Jesus was kept from the taint of sin. When we surrender our lives to Christ, the Holy Spirit comes and produces in

us a new life consecrated to God. What was Mary’s response that we can emulate in order to receive of God’s power in our lives?

- **God’s Word is fulfilled, as we trust Christ.**
³⁷For nothing is impossible with God.” ³⁸“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.
Luke 1:37,38

Mary humbly submitted to angel Gabriel’s announcement. Her complete obedience to God’s Word was seen when she accepted the fulfillment of the will of God in her life. How should we respond when we read or hear God’s Word? What can we expect will happen when we do so?

SO WHAT What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

- What qualities of Mary do you think are worth emulating?
- Why do you think is it important to believe and obey God’s Word?
- What are some reasons why sometimes it is hard to obey the Word of God?

NOW WHAT How do I apply the Word to my life?

- What promises in the Word of God can you hold on to when you pray (2 Corinthians 1:18-20; Psalm 145:13)?
- What does the Bible say concerning some characteristics of the Word of God (Psalm 19:7-11; 1 Peter 1:23-25)? How does this strengthen your faith?
- What does the Bible say should be our response to God’s Word (James 1:22-25; Psalm 119:66-71; 1 Thessalonians 2:13)? From this list, what can you start developing in your life?