



The Report

ISAIAH 53:1

WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT? And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

December, 2009

What If Mary Had Said No...?

By: Michelle Hoff

This time of year brings thoughts of the holidays, first we have Thanksgiving and then Christmas looms ahead within a few weeks. Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus and share His love with others by giving gifts or monetary donations to those in need. Many people attend church at Christmas time, even though they do not usually go to church. There are gifts to buy, cookies to bake, and parties to attend! The Christmas holiday season is a very busy time, and the "Reason for the Season" is Jesus' birth. This thought led me to think of Mary and her response to the angel Gabriel when he tells her she has been chosen to be the mother of God's Son, Jesus. In Luke 1:26-55, the story of Gabriel and Mary is beautifully written, and Mary's response to Gabriel is, "...be it unto me according to your word." However, what if Mary had said, "No thanks, I do not want to do that!"?

If Mary had said "no" to Gabriel, what would God have done? Would he force her to become an unwilling mother? Could Gabriel have just gone to another "good woman" and delivered his message? Would God have had more than one suitable mother that He "highly favored" from which to choose from? Would Jesus have had a very different life if Mary was not His mother?

The above questions make me thankful that Mary was so willing to do what God wanted her to do. She was a young girl, engaged and not married, and told that as a virgin she would conceive and bear a child. It would have been very hard to agree to become pregnant under those conditions. What would Mary say to Joseph? She must have been overwhelmed, but instead of thinking of reasons why she could not do what God requested of her, she says, "Behold the bondservant of the Lord; be it done to me

according to your word." She states this after Gabriel tells her, "For nothing will be impossible with God!!" What a wonderful promise to have from God, especially when her situation seemed so impossible!!

Mary teaches us that we can have the faith to do what God wants us to do, even when we feel overwhelmed. We can say "yes" to God, knowing He can do "the impossible". Nothing stands in God's way except "me"! "I am too busy," "I will do it later," "It is not convenient," or "I just know I could never do that," are some of the standard excuses we give to God when we do not want to do His will. Will you say "yes" to what you know God wants you to do? Or will you make excuses for why you cannot do it? The choice is yours!!

Do not forget that Jesus is the "Reason for the Season"!!

He came to earth to die for your sins so that you may be redeemed and restored to a right relationship with God the Father!!

You are being made complete in Christ Jesus throughout your life journey.

Remember, it is your choice to say "yes" or "no" to God!

Let us be like Mary and say "yes" to God this upcoming year!!!



*To download the rest of the newsletter, in .pdf format, please go to the S.L.C. website: www.SpiritualLifeConcepts.org --You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader in order to view the newsletter. Go to www.adobe.com to download Adobe Acrobat Reader for **free**. A hyperlink to the newsletter can be found at the bottom, left-hand side of the homepage.*

Prayer Requests

Pray For:

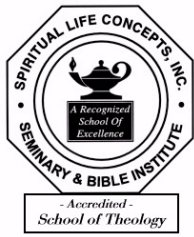
- President Obama and our national, state, county, and city government leaders to receive and follow God's divine guidance, wisdom, provision, protection, and blessings as they lead us into a new year.
- God to continue to lift up and bless all of the ministries that are a part of Spiritual Life Concepts.—Bishop's Council
- The leaders of Spiritual Life Concepts and God's continued guidance, wisdom, provision, protection, blessings, etc...this upcoming year.
- Ask God to give divine guidance and wisdom as our Bishops continue to plan SLC website changes.
- A move of God to bring people back to the basics (Jesus is the "Reason for the Season"!!) this upcoming year.
- Dr. Richard and Pastor Vunita Iske , of Rushing Wind Worship Center, as they assess ministry needs in Pinellas County, FL.
- Danie's headaches to be treated and healed. Also for motivation, creativity, and success in her college classes!
- People who are out of work and looking for jobs. Pray that they find satisfying work that they accomplish in this upcoming year.
- Mitch & Cheryl, they are struggling to find a home and jobs.
- Jackson and his mother, Sharon, as they try to find common ground on things.
- Edith's grandson, Billy, is struggling to find work.
- Jimmy and J.R., both are battling cancer.
- Mary's family, as they are going through trials in their lives.

Praise Reports

Thank God For:

- Velma is praising God for delivering her husband from a medical condition. He is back home from the hospital!!
- The complete healing of Pastor Bobbi's leg from an infection.
- Helping Danie in her classes.
- The successful selling and closing of Archbishop Lowery's house.
- The successful delivery and good health of Brandi's twin baby girls!
- God's protection, guidance, wisdom, provision, blessings, etc...to all His children and the Church!





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