

RESPONSE

December 10, 2017

Introduction: How many of you sitting in the pews are thinking, “There is no way God could use me. I don’t come from the right background, my past prevents it, my education is limited, my family is dysfunctional, I am too young, I am too old. How could God use someone like me?” We must realize that what concerns us does not concern Him. God is looking for desire, heart, perspective and trust. Are you available?

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38

I. My Response to His Promises

The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing (Zephaniah 3:17).

⁴⁰ I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. ⁴¹ I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul (Jeremiah 32:40–41).

NOTE: Until I see myself as God sees me, I will rarely reflect his glory.

II. Mary’s Response to His Promises

A. My availability is determined by His perspective.

*²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “**Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!**” (Luke 1:26–28).*

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*³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, **he has caused us to be born again to a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, **kept in heaven for you** (1 Peter 1:3–4).*

B. My understanding is determined by His voice.

*²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and **tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be**. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, “**Do not be afraid**, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.*

And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end” (Luke 1:29–33).

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*for **it is God who works in you**, both to will and to work for his good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).*

- C. My willingness is determined by His power.

³⁴ *And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”* ³⁵ *And the angel answered her, “The **Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you**; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God (Luke 1:34–35).*

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*And I am sure of this, that **he who began a good work in you** will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6).*

- D. My success is determined by His purpose.

³⁶ *And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.* ³⁷ ***For nothing will be impossible with God” (Luke 1:36–37).***

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*For **we are his workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10).*

- E. My response is determined by His faith.

*And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; **let it be to me according to your word.**” And the angel departed from her (Luke 1:38).*

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⁶ *In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,* ⁷ *so that the **tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold** that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:6–7).*

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Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38

- I. My Response to His Promises (*Zephaniah 3:17*) (*Jeremiah 32:40–41*)
- II. Mary’s Response to His Promises

A. My _____ is determined by His _____.
(*Luke 1:26–28*) (*1 Peter 1:3–4*)

NOTE: Until I see _____ as God _____ me, I will rarely _____ his glory.

B. My _____ is determined by His _____.
(*Luke 1:29–33*) (*Philippians 2:13*)

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C. My _____ is determined by His _____.
(*Luke 1:34–35*) (*Philippians 1:6*)

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(*Luke 1:36–37*) (*Ephesians 2:10*)

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E. My _____ is determined by His _____.
(*Luke 1:38*) (*1 Peter 1:6–7*)

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