

## **TROUBLED, YET REJOICING!**

(Luke 1:34-38)

In spite of life's overwhelming troubles, we can always rejoice in the Lord because of the greatness of who God is. This reassuring truth encouraged and sustained the faith of Mary as she received the astounding news that she would be the mother of the Christ-Child. Though Mary was initially perplexed and troubled by God's call to bear the promised Messiah, she eventually magnified God and rejoiced in the Lord (Luke 1:46-47). Christian rejoicing focuses on the greatness and the glory of God, not on the gravity of our troubles. Mary's joyful response to the miracle of Christ's virgin birth summons us to marvel at and rejoice in these three glorious attributes of God which manifest His greatness.

**1. We can always rejoice because our God is \_\_\_\_\_.**

The virgin conception of Jesus in the empty womb of Mary is brought about by the sovereign power of the Holy Spirit, who is also called the Most High (Luke 1:34-35). This divine miracle is the supernatural work of the Spirit of God who overshadowed Mary. The term overshadow means to surround someone with the haze of God's glorious presence and mighty power. Just as the Holy Spirit hovered over the void and empty form of the earth, and filled it with His marvelous creation (Gen. 1:1-2), so did the Holy Spirit overshadow Mary, hovered over her empty womb, and supernaturally filled it with the Christ-Child, without the agency of a male parent.

In order to strengthen her faith, God gave Mary an affirmation of His power to perform miracles: the miracle of Elizabeth's conception in her old age (Luke 1:36). Furthermore, Gabriel reminded Mary of the truth about God's incredible sovereignty when he said, "*For nothing will be impossible with God*" (Luke 1:37; Isa. 7:14). God's sovereign power knows no limits. This almighty power of God displayed in the virgin birth of Christ is the same power we should rely on when face our own difficult trials and humanly impossible situations (Jer. 32:37; Luke 18:27).

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**2. We can always rejoice because our Savior is \_\_\_\_\_.**

The Christ-Child who was born of Mary is called the Holy One because He is the sinless, pure and blameless Son of God (Luke 1:35; Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22). Though Mary is a sinner like us (Rom. 3:23; Luke 1:46), the Christ-Child in her womb, who is essentially holy, was untouched by the corruption of her sinful nature (Job 14:4, 25:4; Psalm 51:5). This essential holiness and perfect righteousness of Jesus qualifies Him to be our only divine Savior and Redeemer (Heb. 7:26; 1 Pet. 1:19). Praise God that we have a perfectly holy Savior who has washed away all our sins!

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**3. We can always rejoice because our Lord is \_\_\_\_\_.**

Everything in the miracle of Jesus' virgin birth is permeated with God's abundant grace. To be chosen as the mother of the Christ-Child is in itself a glorious display of God's grace in the life of Mary (Luke 1:28). To believe the miracle of a virgin conception is but another gracious work of God upon her heart (Luke 1:38). To surrender to God's call to obedient suffering is only possible when the power of God's grace sustains the faith of His people (Luke 1:38; 2:35; John 19:25). This sustaining grace of God is the same grace available to us when we go through our own seasons of trials and suffering.

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