

IV. GIVE THANKS

A. Mary gave _____.

“1 Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:” Psalm 103:1-2

She was thankful for...

• What God did for _____ (vs 46-49)

• What God did for _____ (vs 50-53)

• What God did for _____ (vs 54-55)

B. Maintain an _____ of gratitude.

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” I Thessalonians 5:18

“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;”

Ephesians 5:20

CONCLUSION: Don't stop believing!!

“Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.” Mark 9:23

DON'T STOP BELIEVING~FIND HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS

Don't Stop Believing When Stressing

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INTRODUCTION

A. One of the most popular messages of Christmas is captured in a single word: believe. Many people are believing in the arrival of gifts and family, however few are focused on believing in Jesus Christ. He is the reason for the season and hope is found in Him so don't stop believing!!!

Elizabeth said to Mary, *“And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.”* Luke 1:45

B. Join me as we unwrap four Christmas messages on believing. Come and discover hope this Christmas!

Dec 5 Don't Stop Believing When Doubting
TODAY Don't Stop Believing When Stressing
Dec 19 Don't Stop Believing When Working
Dec 26 Don't Stop Believing When Waiting

This series is based on Luke chapters one and two.

C. **TEXT:** Luke 1:26-56 (Pew Bible Page 58/New Testament)

The word “believe” is used _____ times in the New Testament.

This passage focuses on Joseph and Mary and how they believed when _____.

HOW TO BELIEVE WHEN STRESSING

The stress of Joseph & Mary (1:26-37):

- The stress of _____ – “What will everyone think?”
- The stress of the _____ – “What will happen to us?”
- The stress of _____ – “How can we handle this?”
- The stress of _____ – “How will this impact our lives?”

I. EXPECT CHANGE (1:26-33)

- A. Joseph and Mary had been planning a _____ until God told them to prepare a _____.

“Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.” Proverbs 27:1

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”

I Corinthians 2:9

- B. God will change your _____ in order to change your _____.

“28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

Romans 8:28-29

II. OBEY GOD (1:34-38)

- A. Mary was told _____ would happen and _____ it would happen and she totally surrendered herself to God.

“1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Romans 12:1-2

B. Obedience includes...

- Accepting God’s _____

“I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.” Psalm 40:8

- Submitting to God’s _____

“The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.” Psalm 145:17

III. FIND SUPPORT (1:34-45, 56)

- A. Mary went to stay in the home of _____.

“3 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.”

II Corinthians 1:3-4

- B. You need _____ with others.

“9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.

11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?

12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12