



Additional notes from sermon slides are available at <http://southhillschurch.org/our-ministries/sermon-online/>

“Christmas –The Power of God on Display”  
Part 3 – “Mary – The Strength to Submit”  
Luke 1:26-38  
Dec. 16, 2018

*How do we see the strength of God in the life of Mary?*

1. Mary received favor from the Lord. (Luke 1:28, 30)
2. Mary received a promise from the Lord. (Luke 1:31-33)
3. Mary received a special work from the Lord. (Luke 1:35)
4. Mary received a miracle from the Lord. (Luke 1:36-38)

**Application:**

1. Do you see God’s favor upon your life? Identify some examples and share them with someone this week.
2. What promises from God give you strength to face tomorrow?
3. Are you ready to trust God for the impossible in your life? Trust Him today for one thing in your life that is impossible from a human perspective but possible with God.



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### Life Group Questions/ Discussion

**Main Thought of the Study** – When we are faced with great expectations from the challenges of life, how do we access the strength of God? When God asks us to do something for Him, how do we have a spiritually strong response of submission to His will?

**Introduction Discussion** - Share as a group your impressions of Mary and the Christmas story. Remember when you were 13-14 years old, how do you think you would have responded to the angel's announcement?

### **Reflections from the Message**

1. Discuss the definition of God's grace and our need for grace every day. (Ephesians 1:6-8; 2:8-9; John 1:16) What evidence do we have that Mary needed God's grace? (Luke 1:28, 47) Read 2 Corinthians 9:8 and share with one another how God's grace helps us to better serve Jesus. When you are not relying on God's grace how does that change the ability to serve Jesus?
2. The angel shared with Mary that her baby boy will be called the Son of the Most High. (Luke 1:32) "Most High" is the Hebrew word or name for God –"El-Elyon". (The name means sovereign, omnipotent, ruler, Almighty, all powerful) Why would this name be significant to Mary? Share a time in your life when you needed to remember the all-powerful God was there to help you.
3. Mary would receive a very special and unique work of the Holy Spirit within her. (Luke 1:35) It is described as the "power of the Most High." (El-Elyon) Discuss the need for the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and our families today. Share one thing that you need the Holy Spirit to do in your family this Christmas. Where do you need His power at work?
4. Read out loud Luke 1:37. (Also Genesis 18:14; Jeremiah 32:17, 27) What is Mary's response when she hears this declaration? (Luke 1:38) Discuss when submission is difficult in your life. When God asks you to submit to His will...is it difficult? Why? or Why not?

### **Application:**

1. What obstacle or "impossible" challenge are you facing this Christmas? As a group go to the Lord in prayer and worship, trusting in "El-Elyon" to do His powerful work in your life and in your family.
2. Discuss the chart – {Identity=Attitude=Behavior} When we have a Biblical identity our attitudes and behavior will flow out of that. Brainstorm together the identity we have in Christ. Where is your perspective of your identity need to be corrected? What healthy choices do you need to make as a result of your identity?
3. As a group think of ways to give God's grace to people in need in our community. Make a plan and do it!