

By the time you receive this letter Christmas will be on all our minds. As busy as you are, I pray you'll take time to read this message and consider Jesus and His Word afresh this holiday season.

We have heard the Christmas story so many times that we do not try to hear the Spirit speaking to us through it. Would to God that we would hunger for God to speak to us afresh concerning the glorious birth of His Son. Let us not become so sentimental about these things that we miss the Spirit.

First of all, consider your reaction to an angelic messenger announcing that God had chosen you to bear His Son. You're unmarried, living at home with your mom and dad and then one afternoon Gabriel appears with this "Good News". Sounds pretty good to us 2000 years later, but what about to Mary?

If it had been you, what do you think you would have said? Some of you would have said, "Whoa, Gabe! Not me, wrong girl -I'm not married, I've never been with a man and this is not for me. What would my folks say? my friends? Joseph? This is going to wreck everything. I was planning to go to college next semester. I mean, like I'm really busy. Forget it - it costs too much!"

I'm not trying to be cute. Think of what it cost Mary to bear the Son of God. What is amazing is that she didn't seem to count the cost. She was not offended at the Word of God but instead she embraced it. In fact

With Every Gift of God - God Gives Man the Choice to Receive It or Reject It.

her response was, "Be it unto me according to thy Word". (Luke 1:38) Perhaps this is the key to why God chose her in the first place.

Mary found favor with God. (Luke 1:30) Now here, the beauty of grace is revealed. See God as he prepares a heart for His Word. See Him develop that very special one to whom He would entrust His only begotten Son. And then, see Him give her the promise and the choice. It is my contention that she could have rejected this grace. God did not force her. It was her choice. And though this blessing would cost so much, she said yes to God. So it is with every gift of God, salvation or any other. God prepares the heart of a man and yet gives him the choice to receive it or reject it.

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## Be It Unto Me...

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This is the message that I have for you this Christmas. God has been so gracious to each and everyone of us. That He has chosen to reveal His Son to us, that He has given salvation to us in Him demands our all. But going on with God we continue to see God's grace. He is still working on your heart. He is preparing your heart to receive more of His Word. It may not come through an angel or a vision or a dream but by the Holy Ghost it will break forth upon you. And then what? Will you count the cost

and miss the blessing? Will you be afraid to step out on God's Word? Will you hold to the security of the status quo or will you say yes to God and like Mary say "Be it unto me according to thy Word"? Satan would do anything to rob you of blessing. He would do anything to steal God's promises from you and make the Word God of no effect in your life. I'm praying that you won't let this happen. I'm praying that you will not be intimidated by any circumstance or situation. That you will see with eyes of faith that which God has promised and stagger not through

unbelief.

I believe that there are those who read this that will dare to believe God and what He says. I believe there are those who are going to do more for God this vear than ever before. You will witness more. You will pray more. You will give more. You will dare to act on God's Word healing the sick, casting out devils and doing anything God asks. This will do more to honor God than anything else -His children believing and obeying His Word. Make time for God to speak to you and as He does, say like Mary, "Be it unto me according to thy Word"!