

ENJOYING A FEAR-NOT CHRISTMAS

Defeating the Fears That Hold Me Back
Christmas 2015

At the first Christmas, angels said “Don’t be Afraid!” 4 times!

- To Mary (Luke 1:30)
- To Joseph (Matthew 1:20)
- To the Shepherds (Luke 2:8-10)
- To Zechariah (Luke 1:12)

WHAT FEARS DID PEOPLE FACE AT THE FIRST CHRISTMAS?

• MARY FACED

“Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. So the angel said, **DO NOT BE AFRAID**, Mary, for God has decided to bless and use you! You will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus . . . and he will be the Son of God, and his Kingdom will never end!’ Then Mary asked, **But how can this be?**”
Luke 1:29-34

• JOSEPH FACED

“Now this is how Jesus Christ was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her fiancé, being a good and righteous man, **decided to break off the engagement quietly, so it would not disgrace Mary publicly.** But after he had considered doing this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, **DO NOT BE AFRAID** to take Mary home as your wife, because the child in her is from God’s Holy Spirit.’”
Matthew 1:18-20

• THE SHEPHERDS FACED

“That night some shepherds were in the fields outside the village, guarding their flocks of sheep. **SUDDENLY**, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory flashed and surrounded them. **They were terribly frightened**, so the angel said to them **DO NOT BE AFRAID!**”
Luke 2:8-10a

• KING HEROD FACED

“Jesus was born in Bethlehem during the time that Herod was the king of the Jews. Then some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and started asking: ‘Where is the child born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him!’ When King Herod heard this news he was **deeply frightened and disturbed**, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem!”
Matthew 2:1-3

• ZECHARIAH FACED

“(While serving in the Temple) an angel appeared to Zechariah. When he saw the angel, he was **confused and overwhelmed with fear**. But the angel said to him: **DO NOT BE AFRAID!** Your prayer has been heard!”
Luke 1:11-13

HOW CAN I DEFEAT FEARS THAT HOLD ME BACK?

1.

“Mary responded, ‘I am the Lord’s servant, and I am willing to accept whatever God wants for my life!’”
Luke 1:38a

“**Surrender your heart to God, turn to him in prayer, and give up your sins . . . Then you won’t be ashamed; you will be confident and fearless.** Your troubles will go away like water beneath a bridge, and your darkest night will be brighter than noon. Then you’ll rest safe and secure, filled with hope and emptied of worry!”
Job 11:13-18 (CEV)

2.

“Whatsoever is not based on faith is sin.”
Romans 14:23b

3.

“Then Mary sang, ‘With all my heart I praise the Lord! I rejoice in God my Savior, for He notices and cares for me, a simple servant girl! . . . He has blessed me, and He is the Mighty One who is holy . . . He is All-Powerful . . . He can do anything . . . He meets all our needs . . . and He keeps his promises!’”
Luke 1:46-56

Mary sang! (Luke 1:46-56)
Elizabeth sang! (Luke 1: 42-45)
The Angels sang! (Luke 2:13-14)
The Shepherds sang! (Luke 2:20)
Zechariah sang! (Luke 1:67- 79)

4.

Elizabeth said to Mary, “You are blessed **because you believed that the Lord would do what he said.**”
Luke 1:45 (NLT)

“When I am afraid, **I put my trust in God.** And when I trust in God I am not afraid! I praise him for what he has **PROMISED.**”
Psalm 56:3-4a

THE GREATEST PROMISE:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
John 3:16 (NIV)

“Jesus came to die for us so he could **free us** from living all our lives as **slaves to the fear of death.**”
Hebrews 2:15

“The hopes and fears of all the years are met in **THEE** tonight!”
from “O Little Town of Bethlehem”