

## “Christmas Love”

By Mrs. Sojourner



This week I’ve spent some time pondering 1 Corinthians 13—the “Love Chapter.”

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup>It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. <sup>8</sup>Love never fails.

<sup>1</sup> 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a (NIV)  
Consider some characteristics of love that shine brightly through the Christmas story.

- 1) Love is patient. God took 2000 years to set the stage for his redemptive act that brought mankind back into fellowship with him.
- 2) Love is kind. Our Heavenly Father went to a completely different level when he not only sent Jesus to be our Savior and Lord, but he also made way for Believers be his friends. The friend of the Creator of the Universe—<sup>John. 15:14-15</sup> WOW!
- 3) Love does not envy. God, through Jesus coming to earth, dying and rising again was not pursuing something that belonged to someone else. He was retrieving what is rightfully his and returning to mankind the opportunity to have what was rightfully

theirs in the first place—the opportunity to fellowship with God.

Notes:

[a]

- 4) It does not boast. God promises, through prophecies, and then carries them out. He does not brag about his power and glory he just shows it by sending redemption in a way no one else could, in the form of a baby in a manger.
- 5) It is not proud. Is there anything proud or arrogant about purposely having the Son of God born on this earth in a stable?
- 6) It is not self-seeking. The reason Jesus came, died and rose again was to provide a way of salvation for Mankind. He suffered so much for our sake, not his.
- 7) Love never fails. Herod tried to kill him as a child but it was not his time to die. God had a plan for Jesus and he carried it out. God has a plan for us. Walk obediently in his love and see his plan for you come to pass.

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# Sojourning

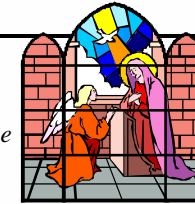
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...with The Sojourner

## “Grace Endued”

(Teaching Sketch)

Luke 1:26-38



*When God blesses mankind it is an act of grace. Grace, when applied to the Believer, reaches far beyond the common grace experienced by all people.*

**The Angel Speaks**  
*When the angel Gabriel<sup>[1]</sup> spoke to Mary<sup>[2]</sup> it was for a purpose—a Divine purpose.*

<sup>26</sup>Now in the sixth<sup>[3]</sup> month [after that], the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee<sup>[4]</sup> named Nazareth,<sup>[5]</sup>

<sup>27</sup>To a girl never having been married and a virgin engaged to be married to a man whose name was Joseph,<sup>[6]</sup> a descendant of the house of David;<sup>[7]</sup> and the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, Hail, O favored one [endued with grace]! The Lord is with you! Blessed (favored of God) are you before all other women!

**When God Speaks**  
<sup>29</sup>But when she saw him, she was greatly troubled and disturbed and confused at what he said and kept revolving in

her mind what such a greeting might mean. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found grace (free, spontaneous, absolute favor and loving-kindness) with God.

### Listen

<sup>31</sup>And listen! You will become pregnant and will give birth to a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great (eminent) and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His forefather David, <sup>33</sup>And He will reign over the house of Jacob<sup>[8]</sup> throughout the ages; and of His reign there will be no end.

### How Can This Be?

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, How can this be, since I have no [intimacy with any man as a] husband? <sup>35</sup>Then the angel said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you [like a shining cloud]; and so the holy (pure, sinless) Thing

**Notes:**  
[1] man-of-God  
[2] rebellion  
[3] number of man, beast, satanic  
[4] circle  
[5] separated  
[6] increase  
[7] well-beloved  
[8] supplanter  
[9] oath of God

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

## Scripture:

Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)

### The Birth of Jesus Foretold

26In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

29Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

30But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. 31You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. 32He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

34"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

35The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called<sup>al</sup> the Son of God. 36Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. 37For nothing is impossible with God." 38"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.



## Advent

This is the second week in Advent.  
This is the week (re-light 1st candle) we light the:

## Annunciation Candle

### Saying:

"I light the Annunciation Candle or Mary's Candle, which reminds us God sent an angel to tell Mary she would be the mother of the Savior who takes away the sin of the world."

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 1:26-38

**Song:** "Mary Did You Know" or your choice of songs.

## "Grace Endued" (Teaching Sketch)

Luke 1:26-38

(Offspring) which shall be born of you will be called the Son of God.

### Oath Of God

*God provides witness to what Gabriel [man-of-God] is telling Mary [rebellion] by the pregnancy of Elizabeth [oath of God]. Gabriel foretells a son to be born to Elizabeth thus providing adequate witness of the message given to her High Priest, husband. Then things that had not been called became reality once called into being from barren to fruitful by Elizabeth's pregnancy!*

<sup>36</sup>And listen! Your relative Elizabeth<sup>[9]</sup> in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is now the sixth month with her who was called barren.  
<sup>37</sup>For with God nothing is ever impossible and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment.

### Rebellion's Response

<sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, Behold, I am the handmaiden of the Lord; let it be done to me according to what you have said. And the angel left her. *God's word did not leave her only the angel.*

Note: These scripture references are taken from the Amplified Bible.

### Just so you'll know:

**Our service is informal.** We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
  - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
  - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

