

## “Surprise!”



By Mrs. Sojourner

Some years back The Sojourner us that the name Mary means “rebellion.” He also taught us, what the Lord revealed to him, that God planted his seed in rebellion, so that out of rebellion his (God’s) son was born to come and save the world. (The Sojourner said it much better than that, but that is the gist of what he said.)

So, back to Mary, rebellion was minding her own business just being a normal Jewish girl and SUDDENLY an angel appeared to her and announced that she was highly favored of God and chosen to bear the son of God.

This was not “perfection,” or “peaceful,” or “all-knowing,” that was described as highly favored, and nothing in the scripture indicates that Mary did anything extraordinary that would set her apart from the other Jewish girls of the time, she was just the one God chose.

So from the aspect of her name meaning “rebellion” it would seem unlikely that God would choose Mary to mother his only Begotten Son but we must remember that God’s ways are often very different from man’s ways. He chose Mary and equipped her with everything she needed to do the tasks set before her.

Now, let us apply this to all

Believers. The Word tells us that God knew us before we were in the womb <sup>[a]</sup> He gave us each gifts and specific things to do and knew those things even before we were born.

God knew Mary was destined to be the mother of the Christ Child even before she was born. Likewise, God has given each believer specific gifts and specific things to do. Just like Mary, we all have a call. We may seem the most unlikely people to do what God has called us to, BUT God.

So, if you know God wants you to do something, do not allow your “name” to stop you. Do not allow the fact that you “seem” ordinary to yourself and/or those around you to keep you from stepping out and being what God has made you to be. Remember too that when you do something easy to you the glory goes to you, but if you follow what God has instructed you to do and do something outside of your “box” God gets the glory.

Notes:

<sup>[a]</sup> Jer. 1:5

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# Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

## “Looking At Faith” (Teaching Sketch)

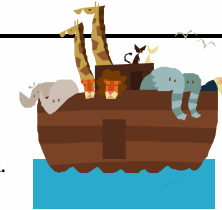
Hebrews 11:1-8



How many times have I heard people speak of certainty and the desire for it regarding their faith. There are many people who would say believing in God is alright if you want to but believing in Jesus Christ they say or think is foolishness. Not knowing it, these people have actually quoted scripture. “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”<sup>[2]</sup>

It is interesting, those who put their complete faith in science or only in what their five senses “tell” them do not see their belief system as a faith. It has been nearly 40 years since I have set in a formal class room and over those years science has made new discoveries which have modified, sometimes greatly, what they had formerly referred to a fact—“truth” if you will.

Imagine if Mary had not believed the angel when she was



told she had been selected to bring The Christ into this world. Can you just imagine the scientific reasons Mary could have given for not

believing she would have a child the way she was told it would happen. It happened just as she had been told.

You see all people have faith, that is not the question, but in what do they place their faith?

### Being Sure

Faith is something a person is sure of even if it is misplaced. Faith it is still faith.

<sup>1</sup>NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, <sup>[1]</sup>the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]. <sup>Heb. 11:1 AMP</sup>

Notes:

[1]  
1 Cor. 1:18

[2]  
James Moulton and George Milligan, The Vocabulary of the Greek Testament.

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

## Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-8 (NIV)

(NIV used to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. <sup>2</sup>This is what the ancients were commended for. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. <sup>4</sup>By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. <sup>5</sup>By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For

### Notes:

[a]

[b]

before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. <sup>6</sup>And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. <sup>7</sup>By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. <sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

### 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**

## "Looking At Faith" (Teaching Sketch)

Hebrews 11:1-8



### Faith Walk Rewards

God always rewards faith. Faith and wish need not to be confused. We must have faith that God will do what he has promised to do in his Word. We are told that Enoch did not die but was taken to be with God because he pleased God.<sup>[3]</sup>

### Notes:

[3]  
Gen.  
5:21-24

### Pleasing God

Pleasing God is a matter of faith and faith is a decision. This is more than faith to be saved from hell but every day faith which expects God to be there looking out for and blessing the Believer in Jesus the Christ. Our scripture tells us, "without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

Noah possessed this faith. He spent more than 100 years building a large boat to hold the animals God would send and his own family with no earthly reason but faith.

### God-Centered Faith

God-centered faith is earnestly seeking Him, his promises and ways. God can only be pleased by an enduring decision to live by faith!

## Advent



This is the second week in Advent. This is the week (re-light 1st) 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 take away the sins of the world."

**Read:** Luke 1:26-38

**Sing:** "Mary did you Know" or your choice of songs.