



## Prayer Focus

December 19–25, 2022

### According to Your Word

“Let it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38 NKJV).

Previously we have considered Zacharias’s lack of faith at that critical moment in the temple. When the angel Gabriel told Zacharias that he and his barren wife were about to have their longed-for child, Zacharias’s faith fell short. By contrast, the next person to whom Gabriel made an announcement displayed the kind of faith we are to imitate.

While discussing Mary’s response when she was informed of the Messiah’s birth, I wrote:

When the angel Gabriel announced the birth to her, she asked, “How can this be since I am a virgin?” (Luke 1:34). This was a legitimate question, so Gabriel answered it. But since she was already a woman of faith, Mary quickly moved past pondering the facts to making one of the most profound statements anyone has made in Scripture: “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to your word” (v. 38 KJV).

Mary’s words reflect total surrender to God’s will. By calling herself a handmaid, she is saying that her will, like that of a bondservant, is not her own. She is willingly accepting whatever her Lord wants, no matter the cost. This is true surrender. *[The Blessing of Melchizedek Devotional](#)* (Los Angeles: Consonant Books, 2016), 220.

Since Mary was a young woman, probably still a teenager, let’s pray for the younger generation to be stirred up in their faith and be able to totally surrender to the Lord’s will for their lives. Let’s also remember everyone, regardless of age, who is finding it difficult to believe what the Lord has said to them, that the Holy Spirit will grant them the ability to take God at His word.

Please take a few moments to listen to [this song](#). As you do, thank the Lord Jesus that He “became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14 NKJV).

-Sharon Arpana Edwards