

# Christmas Part 1: Joseph and a Lesson about Faith

## Matthew 1:18-25



*Matthew 1:18-25  
Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. 19 And*

*Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. 20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the One who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 "And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." 22 Now all this took place in order that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled, saying, 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," Which translated means, "God With Us." 24 And Joseph got up from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, 25 but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and called His name Jesus.*

**1) A Life Without Faith Leads to Fear.** This Christmas story opens with a man named Joseph who had a dilemma. His soon to be wife, Mary, was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit and Joseph did not know what to do. Joseph was afraid to take Mary as his wife. Since Joseph did not know what God had to say about his

circumstance, he could not trust in God's word, and this lack of faith in his life led to fear about the future. Joseph thought his way would be the best way to solve his problem. We can be just like Joseph. When we do not know God's will because we have not heard God's word, we are left with trusting in ourselves and not God which leads to fear in our circumstances.

**2) God's Word Offers Hope in Our Circumstances.** An angel appeared to Joseph and told him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife. Because what was happening in his life was part of God's plan and it was by God's sovereign purpose. Joseph received God's word in his circumstances which offered a hope for his future. A hope that could only be realized in his life if he trusted God's word and God's way and not his own. In our lives today the difference between experiencing fear and hope is whether or not we know and trust in what God has to say about our circumstances. God has blessed the church with His written Word, the Holy Spirit, and His people to speak to our lives and our circumstance so that we can know the way we ought to go.

**3) Obedience to God's Word Can Transform Our Life.** For God's word to have any positive benefit in Joseph's life he had to exercise faith. Joseph trusted in the word of God and got up and did what Lord said. Joseph's obedience to God's word transformed his life. God is still speaking to His people today. His Word is living and active and offers for us a wisdom in life so that we are not left guessing how God would have us respond to our circumstances day by day. If we trust Him and His word our lives can be transformed.