

## Reflection for December 14, 2025 - "The Faith of a Child"

### Inspired by Luke 1:46b-55

Its December 24<sup>th</sup>, late in the evening. Mum and dad have given up trying to get you to go to sleep. They are in bed themselves now, exhausted after getting Christmas ready.

You are beyond sleep. There are no visions of sugarplums in your head, just boxes wrapped in colourful paper under that Christmas tree. At seven years old your belief in Santa is unequivocal. He will have delivered! The anticipation of the morning's activities has you as wired as if you have just consumed a litre of coca cola on an empty stomach. You are way past excited.

What will be under the tree for you? Maybe the new talking teddy you hoped for? The train set? That new bicycle? An Easy Bake Oven or a Hot Wheels set?

You gaze over at the clock on the bedside table. It says 515. Your parents gave you specific instructions, "stay in bed until 700." How long will that take? The anticipation is drying you crazy. You snuggle down in and close your eyes for a few minutes. But it is no use, you can't get back to sleep. You look at the clock again, 525. There is a long while to go yet.

Most of us can remember times like those. With various iterations most of us can cast our memories back to a Christmas Eve with the incredible anticipation of a Christmas morning. And you can remember the faith you had, that Santa (or as you grew older, his elf helpers), would do their best to ensure your day was filled with joy.

Both Elizabeth and Mary possessed what we might call the faith of a child, the belief that something magical could happen in their lives. They were open to the possibility of miracles. As the miracle of Santa is to a child, the miracle of God's presence was in the lives of these two women. There was no question of their belief.

In the verses prior to those Donna shared this morning, Elizabeth, Mary's cousin, becomes pregnant long after normal childbearing age. This she believes it is God's doing. ***"This is what the Lord has done for me in this time, when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."*** Her disgrace, not being able to conceive until then.

And as we know Mary's story, the Angel Gabriel visits and tells her she will become pregnant, even as a virgin. It will be the work of the Holy Spirit offers Gabriel. ***"For nothing will be impossible with God."*** ***"Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'"***

Both Elizabeth and Mary are believers in miracles. Both possess the faith of a child, one who can accept the possibility of what seems to be beyond belief.

Well, if God can bring new life into the womb of a virgin, God can do anything. And Mary proclaims her faith of such a God in her as she sings out her song we know as the Magnificat. It is a song of praise to the God she knows and believes in. She is filled with awe, her spirit rejoices, she is bursting with great joy.

***"My spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for the Mighty One has done great things for me."***

And in her celebration, she holds up a merciful, powerful and benevolent God she knows intimately. One who has shown strength, scattered the proud, lifted up the lowly, filled the hungry, and sent the rich away empty. Mary is convinced God is active in the world, active and even ***"has come the aid of his child Israel,"*** a homeland far removed yet from a place of justice and security.

I did a quick internet search yesterday interested in what I might find if I typed in “What is Blind Faith,” because it seems to me that this is what believing in the miracle of God’s presence asks us. I found this, ***“Blind Faith in the Bible refers to a type of faith that involves believing without tangible evidence. It is often celebrated as a virtue, demonstrating in unwavering trust in God’s plan, even when one cannot see the entire picture.”***<sup>1</sup>

I suppose that’s what it really takes to be a believer, a believer in the wonder of God and the miracles of Jesus. In truth our Bible is filled with the seemingly impossible. It starts right off with the creation itself. Six of our human days to create the earth. After parting the Red Sea with his staff, a wandering Moses takes his people through a 40-year adventure. When they are starving Manna falls from heaven. The story Daniel and his faith. He is cast into a Lions Den and the next day he walks out unscathed.

Jesus’ miracles push our belief boundaries. A blind man regains sight, a crippled man walks, a haemorrhaging woman is cured, The resurrections of Jairus’ daughter and Lazarus. And of course, the resurrection of Jesus himself.

Absurd, nonsensical, impossible.....and yet, all believable. We just need to have the faith of a child.

The excitement of a Christmas morning culminates in the joy imparted within the hearts of the giggling, bouncing, laughing, ecstatic children. As adults we don’t believe in the jolly Sr. Citizen dressed in a red suit, (well most of us don’t). But whether or not he is real, the outcome of his visit is. It brings with it something very, very real. Laughter, much joy and of course expressions of love and souls filled with warmth and beauty.

Perhaps if we had more the faith of a child, it would be easier for us to believe in the impossible. Perhaps that means just seeing the outcome and not worrying about the impediments to get there. Warm clothing for those walking the streets in our neighbourhoods. Affordable and safe housing for those that need it most. Openness to differences. Harmony between adversaries. Perhaps, perhaps even the laying down of arms in favour of the holding up of peace. Pipe dreams or possibilities?

Seeing God in the world is holding on to hope beyond hope, holding up what seems so very unlikely. Seeing Jesus in the world is knowing that the works of our hands and feet and the care within our hearts can accomplish miracles.

In this season we celebrate a miracle birth, the birth of a child who possessed selfless caring and compassion for others, an unrelenting courage in facing injustices, an enduring love through hardship and betrayal. In this season, I believe. I believe in the faith of a child.

I pray we all believe it. You have everything you need, if you just believe!

Thanks for listening this morning, Amen

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<sup>1</sup> [what is blind faith in the bible - Search](#), accessed December 13, 2025