

Message from God's Life-Giving Word

December 22, 2019
Vintage Christmas

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. Luke 1:1-4

* Humans have an insatiable desire to find meaning and purpose in even the most random events.

I. On occasion, God drops directly into the lives of men and women to forward His plan

*The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are **highly favored!** The Lord is with you." ... "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "**May your word to me be fulfilled.**" Then the angel left her. Luke 1:28 and 38*

*Read the full account of the Angel Gabriel and Mary in Luke 1:26-38

II. But for the most part, our days seem to be made up of mostly random events

*Your faith is not designed to move God. A Christian's faith is faith which moves us to trust God when He does not seem to be moving.

III. Faith responds to the seemingly random events of life and trusts that they are part of the perfect plan of God.

*In Him we were also **chosen**, having been **predestined** according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory. Ephesians 1:11-12*

*You were created for a purpose. Often you find it. Sometimes you miss part of it. Occasionally you find it immediately. Sometimes we find it eventually. At Christmas, we are reminded of how life is not nearly as random as it seems as God often uses situations and circumstances to dismantle what we thought would be for what He desires.

**There is a story taking place. A divine story.
And God invites us to participate in His story.
"I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said."**

Next Steps

1. Journal about events in your life which seemed random and meaningless at the time but led into God's plan for you.
2. Read Luke 1:26-38 as you prepare for Christmas. How does this narrative give you hope? How does Mary's faith strengthen your faith? What does the birth of Jesus mean to you and the people you love?
3. Invite someone you care about to Christmas Eve or Christmas Day worship this year. It is a great opportunity!