

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Part 2: The Light of Courageous Faith

IT'S GOING TO TAKE COURAGE

- Courage: The state or quality of mind or spirit that enables one to face danger, fear, or life's ups and downs with self-possession, confidence, and resolution.
 1. It took courage - in years past to drive to the mall during the Christmas season
 2. Courage to face a very different holiday season
 3. Courage to face the difficulties in a relationship instead of stepping away
 4. Courage to face the uncertainties that now exist in our country
- Our faith in God provides a stronger foundation for courage **(Joshua 1:9 NKJV)**
 1. The opponents to our courage are fear and discouragement
 2. The belief that He is with us provides a reason for courage

JESUS' MOM; A WOMAN OF COURAGEOUS FAITH (Luke 1:26-38 NKJV)

- The angel Gabriel gave Mary God's perspective of how He saw her
 1. In God's eyes she was blessed, highly favored and God was with her
- Gabriel gave Mary a promise of great news about her son
 1. He gave her insight as to how amazing this child would be
- Gabriel encouraged Mary's faith
 1. Answered her question as to how this would happen - the power of the Holy Spirit
 2. He pointed to Elizabeth and the fact that she was pregnant
- Mary's courageous faith stance
 1. She identified as being a maidservant of the Lord
 2. Let it be to me - let your words happen in my life

DEVELOPING A COURAGEOUS FAITH

- Grow in the knowledge of God's perspective of how He sees you
 1. This is shining His light on who you really are because of your relationship with Jesus Christ
 2. From God's perspective we are the blessed and favored and He is with us **(Ephesians 1:3,6 NKJV)**
 3. We can follow Mary's example and say - let it be to me according to your word
- Adopt a courageous faith stance - identifying as being a servant of the Lord
 1. There are many ways to identify your life - what comes first has the most power
 2. Yielding the Lordship to Him opens the door to His involvement
- Recognize the Holy Spirit as God's power source in your life **(2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV)**
 1. This will answer the "how questions" in your life
- Believe that as it relates to God's plan for your life - nothing is impossible with Him
 1. They'll say the same about you as they did Elizabeth - she WAS called barren