

# Christmas -- God Chooses Me

Step 12 - Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Christmas -- it really happened! God has come to our planet. He has broken through into our dimension of existence. We may never comprehend how or even why, but the fact is he came by way of a Bethlehem manger. Jesus demonstrated who he was, astounding the masses with his miraculous feats and his seemingly upside-down teachings. No one was really able to ignore him. Jesus drew individuals to Himself with a mysterious power and tender compassion.

As we wake up from the haze of our pain and addictive habits we are invited to recognize that God has come to us. God has broken through our seemingly meaningless existence. He desires to demonstrate to us who He is, the miracles He makes available for us, a new way of life that seems upside down in comparison to our old way of doing things. He has a compassion and power that awakens desire and hope in us that often surprises us. Like Mary when the angel of God appeared to her we wonder, *"But how can this be. I am only .....* "

*Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be frightened, Mary," the angel told her. "For God has decided to wonderfully bless you. Very soon now, you will become pregnant and have a baby boy, and you are to name him Jesus. He shall be very great and shall be called the Son of God. .... Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to do whatever He wants. May everything you said come true." (Excerpts from Luke 1)*

The coming of Jesus to our world and to us is a powerful witness to the truth that our ordinary and simple lives matter. We are assured of God's love for us and His acceptance of us. We are loved not simply as one of the masses but as individuals with unique personalities. It is this individual attention and affirmation by the God who created us and who chooses to come close to us that gives meaning and purpose to our lives. We are significant people because of our connection to God our creator through Jesus Christ.

*When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? (Psalm 8)*

*Jesus said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (From Matthew 28)*

God chooses to use us now to "carry the message" -- to demonstrate life and hope and love. God wants to care for our world through us. God believes that we have in us, through His power, the ability to make life-changing miracles happen. Who would have believed a teenaged peasant girl could be used to bring God's greatest gift, Jesus, so close to us? What might God be wanting to do through us? Who might God be wanting to draw close to his heart through our loving attentiveness to them, in His name? Who does Jesus want to speak a word of encouragement and blessing to through our mouths? Who needs God's hug of acceptance that our arms are meant to give? Christmas and the coming of Jesus tell us, our lives matter as we carry the message of hope through Christ to our broken and discouraged world.

God chose a young, inexperienced powerless woman who was willing to surrender her will and her life into His hands. Because she was willing to obey God, God was able to release light and life and hope into our dying world. God is willing to use us at whatever level of spiritual maturity we've come to today, with whatever gifts and talents are ours. God has a ministry of blessing prepared for us today. Will we, with Mary respond, *"I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to do whatever He wants."*

## Questions For Reflection and Discussion

1. Like Mary, what new and meaningful purpose is God awakening in me that seems almost too much to be true?
2. In what areas of my life might Mary's response to God be a model for my openness and eagerness for welcoming and releasing the ministry God wants to do through me?