

## Anticipation of New Life

“It’s almost time! It’s almost time! Hurry grab the bags! The baby is coming! The baby is coming NOW!” This is the scene played out on TV screens across the country when a fictional couple is expecting a child.

Now think about the people you know and maybe even your own personal experience having a child. Did the birth of the child go like the TV scenario or was it quite different? The timetable for the birth of a child can vary greatly. Some are born prematurely and others, weeks after their due date.

When Mary became pregnant by the Lord, I wonder how she thought it would go. Had she helped other women in labor? Had she been there to witness the changes and hormones of pregnancies of her friends, family, and neighbors? How would she explain this miracle to her fiancé Joseph? Was he truly the godly man she believed him to be? Would he believe her? Would he still want to marry her?

It only seems natural that Mary would be nervous. Nervous about telling Joseph, being pregnant, giving birth, and raising the Messiah. What an exciting yet nerve wracking experience for her. God had chosen her for this purpose.

The angel Gabriel came and spoke to her directly, she did not doubt that it would happen as the angel said, but she did respond with “*How will this be, since I am a virgin?*” (Luke 1:34b). She wanted a few more details and rightfully so. How often does God share something with us in His Word and we think, “Ok, cool God. But how exactly are you going to do this?”

Mary responds with, “*Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word*” (Luke 1:38a). She didn’t doubt God working a miracle. She didn’t throw her hands up at the impossibility of it all. She trusted God.

Thankfully we have access to God’s Word. We can look at it anytime, and know what God is saying to us. Even better than just having this Holy Book, we can trust that it is true! John 1 says that Jesus is the Word of God. *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us* (John 1:14a).

God has chosen each of us for His purpose. He has placed a calling on our lives — a job and task for us to accomplish with the specific gifts He has given us, for a specific time in history. As we prepare for Jesus’ second coming, we do not know the time or the hour, but we know He is coming back. It is a lot like the birth of a child. We do not know when, but we do know it is coming.

Let us get ready with eager anticipation like a mother waiting for the day and hour of her child’s arrival. We can eagerly anticipate the day when we will be called home to live with our Savior, joyfully waiting for the fulfillment of our faith in God’s timing.

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*Published by LWML Texas District Christian Life Committee, 2022*  
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