

## Merry Christmas!

### Welcome to Miracles and Supernatural Intervention!

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- I. **The announcement of Jesus was an invitation of favor and miracles for all humanity that continues to this day (Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-15).**
  - A. The name "Jesus" means "The Lord saves" (Luke 1:31).
  - B. The Holy Spirit "...will come on you," and "No words from God will ever fail" (Luke 1:35-38) is the basis for the everyday lifestyle of all believers.
  - C. God doesn't want anyone to perish. We are highly favored (Luke 1:28). He's not slow about coming back but applies the blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins to generation after generation of believers (II Peter 3:8, 9).
  
- II. **We cannot let pain and disappointment get in the way of the miracles God wants to do for us.**
  - A. Personal pain and disappointment cause some to become hardened toward the only person who is truly kind and gentle toward us (E.g. Zechariah's Christmas invitation, Luke 1:11-20).
  - B. Joseph stayed soft in his disappointment long enough to let God reinterpret his life (Matthew 1:18-25). He became a mighty man of dreams and visions (Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23).
  - C. Jesus came to a nation in pain yet strangely hardened (Matthew 13:11-17; Luke 19:37-44).
  
- III. **The story of Christmas helps us understand how to flow in the miracle culture of God.**
  - A. The power of a humble heart: example of Mary (Luke 1:26-55).
  - B. The hungry heart: the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12); Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:25-38); and the Gentiles (Luke 2:29-32).
  - C. Since the first Christmas, God has never stopped inviting strange guests to receive miracles (Matthew 11:18-19; Luke 14:15-23).
  - D. In the Christmas story, we see the dramatic entrance of the Person and work of the Holy Spirit through His people (John the Baptist, Luke 1:15; Mary, Luke 1:34-38; Elizabeth, Luke 1:39-45; Zechariah, Luke 1:18-20, 57-69).
  - E. God's invitation to miracles continues to this day (Acts 2:17-21).

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