

Take the Next Step

From Worry to Wonder: Part 2 – December 6, 2026 – Pastor Jason

Matthew 1:18-20 (NLT) 18 This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. 19 Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. 20 As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: 23 "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" 24 When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.

Sometimes, God's answer to our worry isn't an explanation. It's the next STEP to take.

1. Obedience doesn't require all the ANSWERS first.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT) 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Psalms 119:105 (NLT) Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

2. Obedience doesn't eliminate the DIFFICULTY.

v.20 ..."Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid..."

John 16:33b (NLT) "Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

MY NOTES

3. Obedience gives my worry somewhere to GO.

Matthew 1:24 *When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded...*

Matthew 6:34 (NLT) *"Don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today."*

Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT) *6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

4. Obedience lets me participate in the WONDER.

Matthew 1:21 *"She will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."*

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT) *For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

Philippians 2:13 (NLT) *For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.*

When your worry starts to eclipse the wonder of it all, just LOOK UP.

Pastor's Blessing

- Be blessed as you remember that God's answer to our worry isn't usually an explanation. It's often the next step to take.
- Be blessed as you remember that obedience doesn't require all the answers or eliminate all the difficulty. Obedience just gives our worry a place to go.
- Be blessed as you allow the Holy Spirit to replace your worry with wonder during this Holiday Season and in every season to come.
- Be blessed today in Jesus' name.