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## Happy New Year

By Terry Kountz January 1, 2024

### TODAY'S READING: Luke 1

In Luke 1, we encounter the angel Gabriel visiting Mary with the life-altering message that she will conceive and bear the Son of God. Imagine the uncertainty and fear Mary might have felt in the face of such a profound calling. Yet, her response is a testament to her faith and trust in God: *"Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word"* (Luke 1:38)

As we step into a new year, we may also face uncertainties and challenges. Like Mary, we are called to trust in God's plans for us. The promise of a Savior reminds us that God is intimately involved in the details of our lives, guiding us through the unknown with grace and purpose.

Here are some ways you can apply this to your life:

**Reflect on God's Promises:** Take time to meditate on the promises of God found in Scripture. Just as God fulfilled His promise to Mary, He remains faithful to His promises for us. Consider verses like Isaiah 41:10, John 16:33, and Romans 8:28.

**Embrace God's Plans:** Like Mary, surrender your plans and expectations to God. Invite Him to lead you in the new year. Trust that His plans are far greater than anything we can imagine.

The new year may bring unknown challenges, but we can face them with courage, knowing that God is with us. Recall Mary's trust in the midst of uncertainty. Warren Wiersbe says "Mary's believing response was to surrender herself to God as His willing

servant. She experienced the grace of God (Luke 1:30) and believed the Word of God, and therefore she could be used by the Spirit of God to accomplish the will of God." May we all follow her example this new year.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, as we step into this new year, we thank You for the promise of new beginnings through the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us the faith and courage to trust in Your plans, just as Mary did. May we embrace the unknown with confidence, knowing that Your promises are true and Your love is unchanging.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Luke 2

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