

OVERLOADED LIVES

THE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

12-20-15

Progress means: "Proceeding to a higher stage of development."

Robert Nisbet

Margin means: An extra amount allowed beyond what is needed.

"Margin has been stolen away, and progress was the thief."

Richard Swenson, M.D.

Matthew 11:28-30 - "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

MARY'S QUESTION

Luke 1:26-38 - In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ **Mary was greatly troubled** at his words and **wondered** what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "**Do not be afraid**, Mary, you have **found favor** with God. ³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his **kingdom will never end.**" ³⁴ "**How will this be,**" Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For **nothing is impossible with God.**" ³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

WHY GOD'S PLAN FOR ME IS BEST:

Mary's Song: Luke 1:46-55

1. **Because God made me for _____.**
Luke 1:46-47 - And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit **rejoices in God my Savior, ...**

Psalm 100:3 - Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, **and we are his;** we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

2. **Because no one cares for me _____.**
Psalm - 115:12 The Lord remembers us and will bless us:

1 Peter 5:7 - Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Luke 1:48 - for **he has been mindful** of the **humble state of his servant.**

3. **Because it is the _____ to _____.**
Luke 1:48-50 - for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me **blessed,** ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 - This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live²⁰ and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

4. Because it is _____ than my _____.

1 Peter 5:5-6 - All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Luke 1:51-53 - He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

5. Because God keeps _____.

Luke 1:54-55 - He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers."

Isaiah 7:14 - Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.