



## *Conversations with an Angel*

And the angel answered and said to him [Zacharias], "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings." And having come in, the angel [Gabriel] said to her [Mary], "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women." ~ **Luke 1:19 & 28**

Just about everyone likes to receive good news. It's exciting to know something wonderful or extraordinary is about to happen ... a new baby is on the way, you've gotten the job promotion, your

fiancé just proposed, your child/grandchild graduated from high school or college, you purchased your dream home, you've received a large sum of money!! You can't wait to share the news and rejoice with those you've told. So how would you feel if an angel announced "good news" with you? Can you imagine how the priest, Zacharias, or Mary, the mother of Jesus, felt when they were told the astounding news they received? The conversations they experienced with the angel Gabriel not only transformed their lives but our own lives today. Their conversations chronicled in the Holy Scriptures is the true reason we celebrate the season called "Christmas!" The births and intertwined lives of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ continue to be commemorated by Christians around the world.

As we journey through this glorious season, it's wonderful to see all manner of Christmas decorations surrounding us, the exchange of gifts with family and friends, extending a helping hand to those in need, enjoying holiday dinners/parties, etc. In the hustle and bustle of the season, I encourage you make a point of taking some quality time to read and meditate on the conversions Zacharias and Mary experienced with the angel Gabriel and much more found in Luke, Chapters 1 & 2, leading to the true "reason for the season." I pray you will be spiritually refreshed and strengthened during this Advent season as you reflect on the genuine source of love, joy, hope and peace which comes from an intimate, personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our Church Women United movement commemorates 81 years this month! Our legacy is strong and our future holds great potential. May our conversations, as women of faith, be seasoned with the "good news" of Jesus Christ. May we endeavor to embody our Mission, Vision and Core Values as we observe this Christmas holiday. May we all remain safe, encouraged and thankful.

*Bountiful Christmas Blessings ~*

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