



Purpose in Believing

Luke 1:1, 4 "Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us,... so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught."

Mary's prayer is called "The Magnificat".

"The song of Mary is the oldest Advent hymn. It is at once the most passionate, the wildest, one might even say the most revolutionary Advent hymn ever sung. This is not the gentle, tender, dreamy Mary whom we sometimes see in paintings. . . . This song has none of the sweet, nostalgic, or even playful tones of some of our Christmas carols." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Luke 1:46b-55: "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; 52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

You are part of a bigger story that involves the reversal of everything that is broken in this world.

"I have great respect for the past. If you don't know where you've come from, you don't know where you're going." – Maya Angelou

Luke 1:45: "Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

"Belief is the matter of a subject's attitude toward a proposition. What one person doubts or hopes, another might fear, or believe, or desire, or intend—different attitudes, all toward the same proposition." – Plato

Believing doesn't make it true it makes it personal

Believing doesn't make it true it gives it purpose

Luke 1:46b-48a: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

Luke 1:48b-49 For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

Luke 1:50: And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

Luke 1:51-54: 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; 52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

Luke 4:18-21: 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." 20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

The Magnificat is juxtaposing the way things are with the way things ought to be.

Luke 1:51-54: 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; 52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

Philippians 2:7 he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness

John 10:10: I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness.

All scriptures referenced are from the New International Version (NIV) translation of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.