



Blessing in Believing

Luke 1:39-45(NIV): At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, 40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!'"

"Awe is the feeling of being in the presence of something vast that transcends your current understanding of the world." Awe: The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How It Can Transform Your Life by Dacher Keltner

"... a realm beyond the profane that many call sacred." Dacher Keltner

"Awe, by contrast, seems to orient us to devote ourselves to things outside of our individual selves. To sacrifice and serve. To sense that the boundaries between our individual selves and others readily dissolve, that our true nature is collective. These qualities did not fit neatly within the hyper individualistic, materialistic, survival-of-the-selfish-genes view of human nature so prominent at the time." Dacher Keltner

John 3:16(NIV): "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Proverbs 3:5,6(NIV): "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Many think faith is about believing despite a lack of evidence, but true biblical faith is about trusting in what the evidence points to as true.

"Belonging isn't about changing to fit in; it's about being seen, valued, and loved for who you are." The Power of Meaning by Emily Esfahani Smith

True belonging is unconditional.
Belonging should not require a mask.
Genuine belonging fosters meaning.

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