

*Thursday, December 23, 2004*

*Scripture Reading: Luke 1:37*

*Text for Today: ...while God does also bear witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his own will. Hebrews 2:4*

To expect a miracle one must be filled with hope and faith, knowing that miracles are of God's own choosing and can happen in the most unlikely times and places and most unexpectedly.

Miracles are occurrences, which cause awe, peace and wonder. These wonders are unexplained in terms of scientific answers and natural forces. The purpose of miracles is to reveal and edify the greatness and love of God for all His children.

As the season of Advent unfolds we find ourselves considering the wondrous events that God has given us, fulfilling prophecy and expectations, healing and resurrection. For those times when we don't understand God's plan for us and our "wants" are not answered as we wished or expected, we need to recall Mary whose lessons of faith, trust, hope and love were able to fulfill the Lord's miracle of bringing light through His son to a world that knew only darkness and misdirection. God gave Mary strength, comfort and encouragement that she would be more prepared to fulfill the miracle God had selected for her.

The miracles of the past can be constant reminders that we can expect miracles to continue to happen and that nothing is impossible with God. Christmas had to happen to give evidence that we can expect miracles to be fulfilled.

Prayer: Gracious Lord, Fill us with hope and faith that you will guide us in every opportunity that we might repair and renew the broken and struggling. Strengthen our vision that we will more ably serve you and bring light and more peace to this world. Allow the marvelous miracle of your son to permeate our lives in this holy season. Amen.

*Hilary & H H Critchfield*