



The  
SEASON  
of  
WONDER



THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR CELEBRATES  
THE MOST WONDERFUL MOMENT IN TIME



<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

**MATTHEW 1:18**



**WHEN CHALLENGES COME INTO OUR  
LIVES, OUR DEFAULT REACTION IS FEAR.**



HOW DOES FEAR MANIFEST ITSELF IN OUR LIVES:



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- ◆ Paralyzes and causes procrastination
- ◆ Retreat and isolation
- ◆ Causes us to turn to unhealthy addictions

<sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

**MATTHEW 1:19 NIV**

Joseph's default reaction to this unbelievably heartbreaking news is **FEAR** and **RETREAT**



<sup>20</sup>But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

**MATTHEW 1:20-21 NIV**

The wonder of Joseph was  
his willingness to step out in

**FAITH**

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<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

**MATTHEW 1:24 NIV**





**WHEN CHALLENGES COME INTO OUR LIVES  
OUR DECISIVE RESPONSE SHOULD BE FAITH.**

Rather than a reaction of fear, Joseph demonstrates in the Christmas story a response of faith.



Biblical principles that can  
help us cultivate greater

**FAITH**

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◆ **Ask** the Lord for more faith.

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<sup>24</sup>Immediately the father of the child cried out  
and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!”

**MARK 9:24 ESV**

Biblical principles that can  
help us cultivate greater **FAITH**

◆ **Ask** the Lord for more faith.

<sup>5</sup>The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our  
faith!”

**LUKE 17:5 NIV**

Biblical principles that can  
help us cultivate greater **FAITH**

◆ **Focus** your faith on **God**.



It is very common for us  
to focus our faith on the

**RESULTS**

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Biblical principles that can  
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◆ **Focus your faith on God.**

7 “But now, Lord, what do I look for?  
My hope is in you”.

**PSALM 39:7 NIV**



**+ I TRUST GOD FOR THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT I  
TRUST HIM NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS WITH  
THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.**

Biblical principles that can  
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<sup>7</sup>For we live by faith, not by sight.

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:7 NIV**

Biblical principles that can  
help us cultivate greater **FAITH**

◆ Inform your faith with insight.

'Now faith is confidence in what we hope  
for and assurance about what we do not see.

**HEBREWS 11:1 NIV**

Faith is necessary when you don't  
have sight, but we can use the  
insight of God's faithfulness to  
help us when we cannot see.



Biblical principles that can  
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◆ Look to the reward of faith

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<sup>6</sup>And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

**HEBREWS 11:6 NIV**





**NOTICE TWO REWARDS FROM THIS VERSE**

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The reward of  
us pleasing God

# ★ NOTICE TWO REWARDS FROM THIS VERSE



The reward of  
us pleasing God



The reward of  
God pleasing us

But now the Lord declares: 'Far be it from me!  
Those who honor me I will honor, but those  
who despise me will be disdained'.

**1 SAMUEL 2:30B NIV**



**TWO QUESTIONS FOR  
ALL OF US TODAY:**



TWO QUESTIONS FOR ALL OF US TODAY:

What is requiring faith  
in your life today?

TWO QUESTIONS FOR ALL OF US TODAY:

What is requiring faith  
in your life today?

So, what will you do?