



December 2018

**“With God nothing
will be impossible.”**

Luke 1:37



Then Mary said,

**“BEHOLD THE MAIDSERVANT OF THE LORD! LET IT BE TO ME ACCORDING
TO YOUR WORD.” Luke 1:38 (NKJV)**

Mary listened intently to God’s messenger, Gabriel, and responded in such an amazing way. It reminds me of Christ’s own words in the Garden of Gethsemane –

“NOT MY WILL BUT THINE.”

Elizabeth spoke a benediction over Mary with the words –

**“BLESSED IS SHE WHO BELIEVED, FOR THERE WILL BE A FULFILLMENT
OF THOSE THINGS WHICH WERE TOLD HER FROM THE LORD.”**

Mary, who already was experiencing the fulfillment of the angel’s message, responded with these eloquent words of adoration and praise to her Father:

“My soul magnifies the Lord

And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant;

For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

For He who is mighty has done great things for me,

And holy is His name.

And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. . .”

Luke 1:45 - 50 (NKJV)

Mary is such a beautiful example of a believing, willing vessel, yielding completely to that particular use God has for her. Because of her, all the nation’s of the world are blessed with Jesus our Savior. And the echo of the words, “With God, nothing will be impossible,” ring across the ages into our hearts today.

The birth of Jesus, the “Word” becoming flesh and dwelling among us, was a God-ordained miracle. For all of time, people had been awaiting for a Messiah, who would bring back a right relationship between God and man. In eternity past, God had this amazing plan ordained – time, place, and characters in this **IMPOSSIBLE MADE POSSIBLE** event.

At this special time of year when we celebrate this wondrous Gift of God, may we renew our commitment to be used in whatever way our Lord desires. May we seek His will through His Word and through the Holy Spirit’s leading. Sometimes we think He is calling us to do something we “can’t” do, but always remember – “With God, nothing will be impossible.”

We praise God for all He is doing in our lives. Deb’s brother Bob passed away from a massive stroke in April. Her brother Don was already experiencing some cognitive impairment. By July, significant problems with cognition were obvious. He had to give up his car and driving. He was also showing signs of “Sun-Downer’s Syndrome,” where he became more confused later in the day, and got up many times during the night. All of this was taking a toll on his loving wife Desi. Things continued to deteriorate into August, September and October. We finally agreed with Desi that we needed to take him to the

hospital. He had been falling often, and the confusion was more and more obvious. He was hospitalized for 7 days in which they did extensive tests. Finally they discerned that Don had experienced a stroke at some point.

When they released Don from the hospital, Desi placed him in a very wonderful group home for rehab. He has, however, not made any progress toward rehab. He is very weak, tottery and confused. Please pray for wisdom for all involved in Don's future, and for comfort for us all as well, as well as direction for Desi in how to proceed with her life.

We continue working with our dear amazing 100 year old, and delight in her life. Pray that her vision does not deteriorate any further. The ophthalmologist Deb took her to this week assured her that she won't lose any more vision. She still can see enough to teach her Bible class using her extra-large-print Bible pages. We enlarge the songs and scripture at church for her too. It is so neat to hear her sing out boldly when she can see the words.

Because we are so involved in Deb's brother's situation right now, we are somewhat limited in pursuing other areas of ministry. We do continue visiting some friends at church who are going through difficult times, and work at encouraging others through text, phone calls, cards and visits.

Wednesday, as we were going into the hospital to do a visit, we spied a man sitting outside on a bench, and greeted him. When we came out, he was still there. It turns out, he had just been released from the hospital for congestive heart failure, and was looking for a ride home. We were able to do that for him. Please pray for Giovanni. He once was close to God, but has fallen away. We pointed out some churches close to his apartment, within walking distance, and urged him to go. He said he knows he needs to get back in church, so we pray God will nudge him into going. There is a lot of shame there for walking away from what he knows to be true, and getting involved in worldly things.

WITH GOD, NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE.

Both Bill and I experience a great deal of pain related to arthritis, and the extreme fatigue that goes along with that disease. It is often difficult to keep going. Bill will be starting therapy soon on his left shoulder. We are hoping that will help. Pray for us to balance life with this physical nemesis.

Pray that we might be all that we need to be to our children, grand-children and great grand child. We do praise God for each one.

We pray that we might daily live out Mary's commitment –

BEHOLD YOUR SERVANTS LORD! LET IT BE TO US

ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD.

As always, we want to express our thanks for those of you who have continued to support us in prayers, encouragement, and finances. You are part of this team God has created to do His work with elderly.

Blessings on you all during this Holy Day season,

Bill & Debbie Carson

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(Someone asked, "Why different area codes for you two?" Phoenix is growing so quickly that we have 3 area codes, therefore any time someone gets a new phone it is usually in the 480 area code. But we are still happily married 51 years and have lived in the same home for over 34 years.)