

*You Have Found Favor with God*

*Luke 1:26-38*

God sent the Angel Gabriel to Mary to share God's plan. Among his first words to her were these, "Do not \_\_\_\_\_." We assume she was afraid of the form of this heavenly creature. But the Greek word for "angel" is the word "\_\_\_\_\_." So, **Heb. 13:2** speaks of showing hospitality to angels without knowing it. When angels appeared to people in the Bible, they almost always appeared as other people—\_\_\_\_\_. If Gabriel wasn't a frightening creature, of what might Mary have been afraid? Maybe the same kinds of fears that people have today. As with us, so with Mary, the list of cares, anxieties, and fears must have been long. But the message of God is the same: Do not be afraid. Literally, \_\_\_\_\_.

The reason to stop fearing was that she had found \_\_\_\_\_ with God. The word translated "favor" is a word usually translated as "\_\_\_\_\_." It was the word commonly used to refer to the help of a \_\_\_\_\_ given to a \_\_\_\_\_ in need. Here is what Mary would have heard: "You have been chosen by God to be the recipient of His favor, His grace. You are now His \_\_\_\_\_."

We who have put our faith in Jesus have this \_\_\_\_\_ of benefaction from God (see **Rom. 5:2** and **Rom. 8:31**).

God's unique favor toward Mary was that she would be the mother of the Messiah, accomplished by the \_\_\_\_\_. God also favors us when we accept Christ. We are invited into the \_\_\_\_\_ and into the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. God has a purpose and place for you in His kingdom and enables you as the \_\_\_\_\_ comes upon you.

God's promise in Scripture to we who have accepted Jesus as Savior is that God has \_\_\_\_\_ you; chosen to be your benefactor. And the \_\_\_\_\_ from which you will draw to live for Him and serve Him is the \_\_\_\_\_. The only thing left for us to do is \_\_\_\_\_ the angel's word that "no word from God will ever fail" and \_\_\_\_\_, "I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled."

You are \_\_\_\_\_!