



# PORTRAIT of a HAPPY PERSON



How Mary says YES to God's invitation and brings JOY to the world

*Luke 1:26-50*



# PORTRAIT OF A SPIRALING PERSON:



1. Depend on others for your sanity.
  2. Take on multiple big, complicated projects with tight timeframes.
  3. Resist the regular rhythms of life, and instead, let your life be ruled by deadlines.
  4. Skimp on sleep and load up on junk food.
  5. Put off quality time in key relationships.
  6. Dwell on old hurts/puzzling questions about God.
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# FINDING JOY

Learn how to tune in to God's presence  
so you can bypass the breakdown  
and experience breakthrough.



*overfilled schedules*

*trauma*

*racial tension*

*anything goes*

*unbelief*

*broken marriages*

*abortion*

*anger*

*ISIS*

*mass negativity*

*anxiety*

*political infighting*

*information overload*

*distrust*

## THESE ARE THE DAYS OF....

*drug epidemics*

*on-demand everything*

*power struggles*

*narcissism*

*mass shootings*

*Twitter wars*

*devices*

*disrespect*

*distracted driving*

*sexual harassment*



The good news of the Christmas story stands out  
in stark contrast to the gloom of the era.

Backdrop:

IN THE DAYS OF HEROD....

IN THE DAYS OF CAESAR AUGUSTUS....

violence, oppression, corruption, distrust, fear  
self-worship, narcissism, tyranny



*Luke 1:5, 2:1-3*






God's messenger starts with joy.


**GREETINGS = BE OF GOOD CHEER!**  
**FAVORED ONE = GET READY TO BE LAVISHED.**  
**THE LORD IS WITH YOU.**



*Luke 1:26-29*



God will step into the timeline of history  
as a bundle of joy.




What to call him....


**GOD WITH US**

**GOD IS SALVATION**

**SON OF THE MOST HIGH**



*Luke 1:30-33*







The power of God overshadows Mary's puzzles.

**WE CAN'T COMPREHEND  
GOD'S GREATNESS,  
BUT WE CAN EXPERIENCE IT.**

Holy Spirit hovers, as in Genesis.  
Glory of the Most High envelopes.  
Child is holy, Son of God.



*Luke 1:34-35*





When God is on the move,  
happy news pops up where you'd least expect it.

**MIRACLES BRING:**  
Confirmation  
Comfort  
Community



*Luke 1:36-37*



Convinced of God's goodness,  
Mary happily accepts her mission.



“I AM THE SERVANT OF THE LORD.”

ALL IN. FULL TRUST.



*Luke 1:38*





Joy multiplies when it's shared.

LEAPING FOR JOY

AFFIRMING GOD'S WORK

JOY ERUPTING IN WORSHIP



*Luke 1:39-50*



This is about bringing joy to the world.

“It is too small a thing  
for you to be my servant  
to restore the tribes of Jacob  
and bring back those of Israel I have kept.  
I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,  
that my salvation may reach  
to the ends of the earth.”



*Isaiah 49:6*

*anything goes*      *racial tension*

*trauma*

*broken marriages*

*unbelief*

*abortion*

*anger*

*ISIS*

*mass negativity*

*anxiety*

*political infighting*

*information overload*

*distrust*

**BUT THESE ARE THE DAYS OF....**

*drug epidemics*

*on-demand everything*

*power struggles*

*narcissism*

*mass shootings*

*Twitter wars*

*heartbreak*

*disrespect*

*distracted driving*

*sexual harassment*



Each of us is called to carry the joy of Jesus  
to our own neighborhood.

In our neighborhood,  
**LET THESE BE THE DAYS OF....**



*stocked pantries, safe streets, thriving marriages,  
stable families, adoption, taking care of the elderly,  
racial reconciliation, justice, recovery from addiction,  
knowing the Word, sound minds, self-control, selflessness,  
ceaseless prayer, possibility, peace,  
faith, hope, love, true connection, joy.*



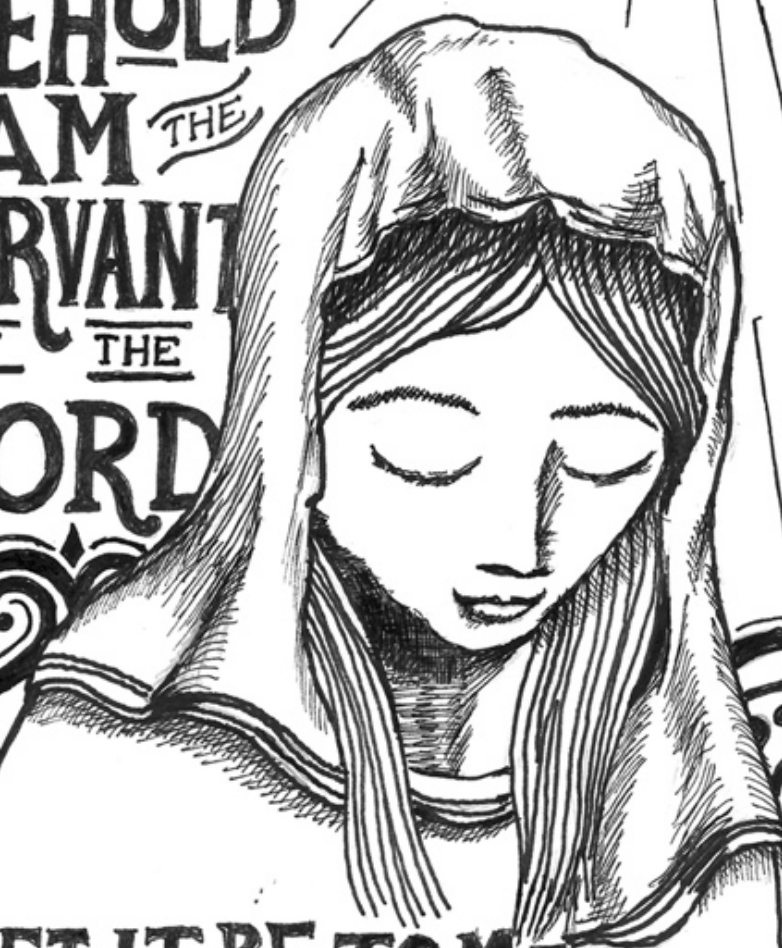


# PORTRAIT OF A HAPPY PERSON:



1. Have you LISTENED to God's message?
  2. Have you EMBRACED God's JOY?
  3. Have you BELIEVED the Lord would do what He said?
  4. Have you ACCEPTED your assignment?
  5. Have you AFFIRMED God's work in others?
  6. Have you CARRIED JOY out into the neighborhood?
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BEHOLD  
I AM <sup>THE</sup>  
SERVANT  
OF THE  
LORD



BLESSED  
IS SHE WHO  
BELIEVED <sup>WHAT</sup>  
WAS SPOKEN  
<sup>TO</sup> HER FROM <sup>THE</sup>  
LORD

LET IT BE TO ME  
ACCORDING <sup>TO</sup> YOUR WORD.



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