

MY ADVENT

Journey



MY ADVENT *Journey*

The Advent season is a four-week period before Christmas that anticipates the coming of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. The origin of “advent” is Latin, which means “coming” or “arrival.” My Advent Journey (a 25-day devotional) is a personal look at your Christmas – how you prepare for and celebrate the coming of Christ.

This devotional journal will help you examine your Christmas - past, present, and future. It encourages you to reflect on what formed your traditions of holiday celebration, how you celebrate now, and what would bring the most meaning to observing Advent in the years to come. You will also explore those elements that may not contribute significantly to this holy season. All this will be accomplished by diving into scripture, answering reflective questions, and providing space for journaling.

This journey will take place in four ways:

- **LOOK IN** – A time of introspection and listening, looking at your longing.
- **STEP BACK** – What is Christmas’ truest meaning?
- **TIME OUT** – How is God speaking to you?
- **SLOW DOWN** – Stop and consider the soul work that needs to be done.

So, take the journey...your own personal journey. As you walk through the pages of this journal, may you find greater revelation and intentionality in your celebration of the coming of Christ.

LOOK IN

To begin any trip, you must start where you are. Since this is a personal, internal journey, you must begin with yourself. Who are you? What makes you, you? What occupies your thoughts this holiday season? What are your longings?

We've all heard the phrase, "It is better to give than to receive," and certainly, that statement has a great deal of truth. During the holidays, we think about helping others celebrate the season. We painstakingly choose gifts, organize holiday events, and plan meals to show others our love and how we value them.

What about you? What are you longing for this holiday season? This is not an encouragement to begin hinting about that "perfect gift" (if there is such a thing), nor is it hoping the perfect Hallmark Christmas might be curated. It's about longing...personal longing.

What do you value most? What would emphasizing that value during Advent look like? Over the next few days, you will have the opportunity to do just that.



DECEMBER *pt* - WHY DO YOU DO WHAT YOU DO?

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

Psalm 139:1-3

Memories can conjure up all kinds of responses. There are sad memories, such as moving away from a childhood home or being ridiculed by classmates. There are wonderful memories, such as growing up with a family pet or spending summers on the beach. Christmas certainly stimulates memories, such as attending an annual Christmas event, decorating the Christmas tree, or even leaving cookies for Santa.

Today's scripture speaks of being known by God. He is familiar with all our ways. Are you familiar with your ways? Think about special Christmas memories from the past.

- We hold onto certain holiday traditions for various reasons. What are those cherished traditions, and why are you drawn to them? Name one that comes to mind.
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- As you think about this Christmas tradition, does it call up positive or negative memories, and why?
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- Are you continuing to carry on this tradition? Why or why not?
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Prayer: Lord, let me rest with what has been revealed to me today.
Amen.

DECEMBER *2nd* - UNDERSTANDING DESIRE

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. Mark 10:51

Yesterday, we looked at Christmases past—traditions and rhythms that have been established over the years. Your journaling led you to a specific tradition. What longing was evoked?

Does the thought of looking at your deep desire sound selfish? Indulgent? Does it feel wrong because there are "bigger" concerns to consider? Maybe looking at your longing doesn't seem very spiritual to you. Well, think again.

Jesus was known for asking people what they wanted...really wanted. Not what they wanted for others but for themselves. When Jesus asks, *"What do you want me to do for you?"* (Mark 10:35-52)

Let's take this a step further. What is your deep desire this Advent season? There is nothing wrong with holiday traditions, but just for a moment, hear Jesus asking, *"What do you want me to do for you...this Christmas?"*.

- Sit with this question, *"What do you want me to do for you?"*. What initially rises to the top as you journey this Advent season, specifically, how you observe the coming of the Christ Child?
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Don't try to figure out where you must go from this revelation. Hold it. Don't do anything about it. Wait for him to reveal how this is relevant to this season.

Prayer: Lord, let me rest with what has been revealed to me today. Amen.

DECEMBER 3rd - NOW WHAT?

This is what the Lord says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls... Jeremiah 6:16

Yesterday, you were invited to consider Jesus' invitation: "What do you want me to do for you?" Now what? Maybe an aspect of your annual Advent celebration has been reaffirmed for you. Possibly, the Lord made you aware that an annual rhythm has lost some of its meaning, and rekindling is needed. Perhaps you have found a tradition that has lost relevance.

- As you looked at "What do you want me to do for you...this Christmas?". What do you feel he is inviting you to do with this revelation?
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Prayer: Lord, let me rest with what has been revealed to me today.
Amen.

DECEMBER 4th - WHAT ARE MY DEEPEST VALUES?

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Psalm 37:4

Today's scripture uses the term "the desires of your heart." As you have considered your longings, your longing for God has certainly surfaced. The scripture also speaks of delighting in the Lord. To delight means to find pleasure, joy, and satisfaction. In the Lord, we understand our deepest desire. We long for greater intimacy with him. The longer we walk with Him and grow in our knowledge and love of Him, the more we realize we delight in what delights the Lord.

- How are you longing for greater intimacy with him this Advent season?
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Prayer: Lord, let me rest with what has been revealed to me today.
Amen.

DECEMBER 5th - COUNTING THE COST

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matthew 7:24

Consider what God has revealed to you in the last few days.

- You've looked at your past rhythm of holiday celebrations.
- You have considered Jesus' loving question, "What do you want me to do for you?"
- You have looked at what might bring greater meaning to your Advent season.

Your reflection may prompt you to consider making some changes, and those changes may come at a cost. The cost may be streamlining some holiday activities or rearranging your holiday schedule. Change can bring pushback: "We've never done it that way."

God may be calling you to a new way of reflecting on Advent. The cost may affect your personal need for change, and you may also be concerned about how it will affect others.

What is God asking of you? Who will it affect? What is the cost?

Prayer: Lord, let me rest with what has been revealed to me today. Amen.

STEP BACK

We've spent the first few days of December examining what has helped form your Christmas traditions.

We all know that Christmas is the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child, but family traditions and advertising can lead us to cultivate traditions that add stress or lose value. So, there is nothing wrong with stepping back and asking the question, "What is Christmas all about?" This may seem elementary, but getting back to basics can bring new clarity and devotion.



DECEMBER 6th - CHRISTMAS IS NOT ABOUT YOU

...let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. Hebrews 12:1-2

Today's title might seem a bit abrupt. It is not an indictment but a reminder. Even the most diligent among us can get swept up in the trappings of the holidays. While it can all be wonderful and enjoyable, we must be careful not to lose focus on the reason for it all. Before you look to the days ahead that speak of the tenets of Advent, this foundational reminder would be helpful — it's about Jesus. Reflect on the significance of that reminder.

- Christmas is about Jesus. What does that mean to you?
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- What is one way you might keep that reminder before you as you move through this season?
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Prayer: Lord, today, I give thanks for the reminder that it's all about You. Amen.

DECEMBER 7th - CHRISTMAS IS A PROMISE

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned...For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:2&6

Isaiah's prophecy of the coming of the Messiah occurred centuries before Jesus's birth, so God's people waited. But waiting doesn't begin to describe it; it was so much more. Prevailing. Persevering. Desiring with deep groans from the depths of their inmost being that the Promise made would be the Promise kept. The thirst for an answer only stirred more and more questions as time passed. When will the Messiah come? How will this take place? What will the redemption of His people look like?

Christmas fulfilled God's promise to his people centuries before Christ's birth that He would be with them. We do not journey this life alone. Immanuel will not leave us when difficulties come or we miss the mark of living a godly life.

Today's scripture tells us of one of the many prophetic signs that God gave centuries earlier to foretell the coming of the Promised Messiah.

- When you hear the word "promise," what comes to mind?
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- When you hear of the promised Messiah, what does that mean to you?
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Prayer: Today, Lord, I yield to your promised will in my life. Amen.

DECEMBER 8th - CHRISTMAS IS MEEKNESS

This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Luke 2:12

Yesterday, we reflected on the long-awaited promise of the Messiah becoming a reality. Some assumed this Messiah would come as a great Warrior or conquering King. His coming as a tiny, helpless Baby may not have been on the radar of many.

The Almighty often uses the most unassuming to convey His message. Baby Jesus, meek and mild, is the epitome of His handiwork. It is a reminder to each of us never to count anyone out — not even yourself—in the proclamation of His gospel.

- How have people underestimated you in the past?
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- How have you underestimated Jesus in the past?
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- What revelation have you received from the thought of power in meekness?
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Prayer: Today, Lord, I choose a meek spirit that resembles Your humility. Amen.

DECEMBER 9th - CHRISTMAS IS A SURPRISE

...God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Luke 1:26-37

Christmas is a time filled with surprises. We painstakingly make sure the gifts we give to others are concealed until the moment of opening. When someone is truly astonished, giving takes on greater meaning. The result is joy for both the giver and the receiver.

No one was more surprised at the gift of the Christ Child than Mary. "How will this be...?" she asked. Yet, her fearful astonishment led to a steadfast acceptance of the task. She embraced the surprise by yielding to the will of the Almighty. The result is joy for the One who gives and for us who receive.

- What has been "fearful astonishment" for you in recent days? Is there a "steadfast acceptance" that can be learned from it?

Prayer: Today, Lord, may I embrace any surprise, knowing you work all things together for good. Amen.

DECEMBER 10th - CHRISTMAS IS HOPE

The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.
Lamentations 3:25-26

Some Bible commentators state that “hope” and “wait” are interchangeable in God’s Word. The season of Advent embodies this truth. The Jewish people waited centuries (and some are still waiting) for the arrival of the promised Messiah. This wait can only be persevered through the intentional stirring of hope.

Today’s scripture shares a keyword for the believer, then and now, to seek. The word “seeks” means to pursue, strive for, or go after. It is important to note that this word is in its present tense in Lamentations, as our hope must continually grow. If we do not intentionally wait on God, we will lose hope.

- How do you continually stir the hope of the Lord in your life?
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- What is one way you can intentionally wait/hope in the Lord this Advent season?
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Prayer: Today, Lord, I renew my hope in you. Amen.

DECEMBER 17th - CHRISTMAS IS REDEMPTION

Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins. Psalm 130:7-8

The birth of the Christ Child is all about redemption, salvation, and restoration. Today's scripture is addressed to Israel, which was a term for the people of God. Make these verses personal by replacing "Israel" with your name. The coming of Jesus shows the lengths to which the Almighty was willing to go to redeem and restore all humankind to a relationship with Him.

Christmas is the gift of unfailing love and full redemption wrapped in swaddling cloths!

- What is one way you can celebrate your redeemed relationship with Christ this Advent? Consider a way you've never thought of before.
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Prayer: Today, Lord, I celebrate my redeemed relationship with you through Jesus Christ. Amen.

TIME OUT

It seems that life goes into overdrive during the holidays. As we glance at our calendars and the additional activities that fill our already busy schedules, it's hard to imagine adding one more thing! Yet, we continue to add events and responsibilities. The next several days provide an opportunity to take some intentional time to reflect on the personal "why" behind all you will be doing in the weeks ahead. You may also want to consider making adjustments to your holiday celebrations.

Be open-minded to the leading of the Lord. Wherever He leads you, remember that any change is possible when you yield to the path He is taking you. These changes could be in your schedule, or they might be within your soul.

You have been on your own Advent journey for several days now. You have looked at your family and faith traditions. These groups have played a significant role in the way you celebrate Christmas. You also took a step back to remember the foundational truths of Christmas. Now is your time to unite the two schools of thought and see how they support one another.



DECEMBER 12th - WHAT HAVE I LEARNED?

So they [the shepherds] hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. Luke 2:16-20

Today, you read that the shepherds have heard the announcement of Immanuel and gone to investigate that truth. Mary is taken aback by their presence and response to the Babe. Scripture says she “treasured” (valued) and “pondered” (contemplated) what took place.

- What do you most treasure in your Christmas traditions? Be specific.
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Prayer: Lord, today, help me treasure and ponder the significance of your coming. Amen.

DECEMBER 13th - TAKING STEPS

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." Matthew 2:1-2

The Wisemen came, which involved a process. They sought any information they could find about this captivating star and took steps to uncover answers through a long, arduous journey. Through the mystery and uncertainty about the destination, they took steps and came. They believed that as they journeyed, details would be revealed.

Just as the Wisemen took steps to find answers to the star's appearance, you are now encouraged to take steps. Yesterday's step was to look at the Advent customs that you treasure the most. What is next?

- What is a custom that has lost some of its value? Contemplate why. Is there a change that needs to be made? Perhaps no change is needed – journal that revelation and explain why. If there is a change, simply journal the change that has been recalled.
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Prayer: Lord, today, I leave this revelation in your hands. Amen.

DECEMBER 14th - OTHERS

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. 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.

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. 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 1:18-21

We recently read that Mary, the mother of Jesus, "treasured up all these things and pondered..." the news of her role in the coming of the Messiah. She was not the only person who did some pondering. Today's scripture says that Joseph "considered" the angel's announcement to him about Mary's role.

Certainly, Joseph listened to and heeded the angel's words, but he also considered Mary's life-altering situation.

Perhaps in your journaling yesterday, you reflected on some of your Christmas traditions that have lost their value.

- If you were to make a change or even eliminate that tradition, who might it affect? Who needs to be considered in this change you want to make?

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- How might you approach the subject with them?
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Prayer: Lord, today, help me to be mindful of how you are moving in me and how it might affect others. Help me move with your compassion. Amen.

DECEMBER 15th - SOMETHING NEW?

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? Isaiah 43:19

Your Advent journey has led you to ask questions about why you celebrate Christmas the way you do. Something has been revealed... something new.

Consider the following quote: *"If you always do what you've always done, then you will always get what you have always gotten."* (John Maxwell). Perhaps through these days' reflection, a desire to change has surfaced—a new way to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The change may be within you; your soul needs to be challenged.

- Do you feel something new needs to take place to bring fresh meaning to your celebration of Christ's birth? Is it an inward or outward change that is calling you?
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Prayer: Lord, today, may all I do be with a renewed sense of your Spirit working within me. Amen

DECEMBER 16th - HOW WILL YOU RETURN?

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. Luke 2:20

In many ways, these past days of “time out” identify us with what the shepherds experienced. In moments of quietness, they experienced revelation, felt a need for investigation, and discovered something that was life-changing for them. They had an encounter with the Infant King. Their sacred encounter led them to return to their everyday lives, but changed them.

- How does the chain of events for the shepherds resonate with you?

- What fresh encounter have you had with Jesus, and how will that affect your day-to-day life?

Prayer: Lord, today, may my inward encounter with your Spirit spill over into my outward encounters with others. Amen.

SLOW DOWN

Perhaps someone has said something to you, like, "Take a break," "Relax," "Put your feet up," or "You've done enough for one day." Sentiments like these can bring peace or angst, or be dismissed because you feel a heavy sense of responsibility.

As you've walked through this journal and taken your personal Advent journey, you've been asked to engage in some soul-searching that has had or will have some outward effects. You have examined your pattern of holiday activities, stepped back to consider the basic truths about the true meaning of Christmas, and taken time to contemplate what God is conveying to your soul. This may have led you to engage in some genuine soul work to connect more deeply with the Lord. The words "slow down" are wise counsel as you move forward.



DECEMBER 17th - LETTING GO

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his government and peace, there will be no end.
Isaiah 9:6-7

One of the first steps in slowing down is a willingness to let go of control. Today's scripture is more than a prophetic word from the Son of God; it gives divine designations to Him that allow you to step away from the need to steer your life and slow down to be in His presence.

Each title given to the Son of God envelopes an area of your life.

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR – The Divine Counselor gives compassionate guidance and direction to the most innermost aspects of your life.

MIGHTY GOD – He is a powerful Deity who can handle the largest of concerns throughout time and eternity, such as world issues.

EVERLASTING FATHER – The familial title is intentional. He is the head and guide of all those closest to us, both biological family and family of faith.

PRINCE OF PEACE – When control is relinquished, there is a peace that will pass all understanding (Philippians 4:7)

- What area of your life has caught your attention and concern lately? Your inner life? World issues? Family concerns? A constant current of anxiety? Journal your concern. Be specific. Which divine designation for today's scripture can tend to that concern?

Prayer: Lord, today I yield to You my _____ (who would fill that need - Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace). Amen.

DECEMBER 18th - TAKE INTO ACCOUNT

I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word. Psalm 119:15-16

Christmas Day is in one week. Hopefully, this Advent journey has deepened your hunger to slow down. Because of that hunger, you are planning meaningful time with God with greater intentionality... even at the height of holiday activity.

Today's scripture is written from a personal perspective with an intentional quest. You are invited to "meditate," "consider," and "delight."

MEDITATE - Linger with the teachings of the Lord. Contemplate the lengths to which He has gone to reach you with His love through the coming of His Son.

CONSIDER – Consider how His hand has brought you to this moment of faith.

DELIGHT – Take some time to personally celebrate His declaration of love for you - His precious child.

- Journal your response.

Prayer: Lord, quiet my heart this day that I may meditate, consider, and delight in you. Amen.

DECEMBER 19th - AN UNDIVIDED HEART

Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness, give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever. For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the depths, from the realm of the dead. Psalm 86:11-13

You are living in a time when distraction is intensified. It seems nearly impossible to keep your focus on one thought for any length of time. An “undivided heart” seems an impossible task. Your heart and mind are pulled in multiple directions. Maybe you have felt that your time with God is anything but focused.

Today’s scripture is an act of submission, and this act of yielding requests a lesson in how to rely on the Almighty. This humble request is the key that opens the door to learning of God’s faithfulness, which leads to an undivided heart.

- What is causing a lack of focus, distraction, and divided heart for you today? Journal what comes to mind. Rely on God to give you focus, even during chaos.
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Prayer: Lord, today, teach me your way so that I may rely on your faithfulness. Amen.

DECEMBER 20th - IT'S ALL GOOD

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

In many ways, the Christmas story has been so sterilized that you may miss the struggle. There is so much resistance in the account that, if you are not observant, you will overlook it. The struggle was real, as seen in the lack of trust in the lives of Zechariah (Luke 1:18) or in Mary's initial response to the angel Gabriel (Luke 1:34). There is also the struggle for control, such as Joseph's original decision to divorce Mary upon hearing the news of her pregnancy (Matthew 1:19) or the scheming of King Herod upon hearing of a newborn king (Matthew 2:13).

A second look at the Christmas story further proves that, even in the midst of the struggle, God was at work. Doubt and disbelief led to a yielding of trust. The struggle for control leads to submission, or in Herod's case, God's ways will not be thwarted.

- What about your story? Think of a time when God's hand was on your life, even through the struggle. Maybe you couldn't see it then, but as you reflect, fresh revelation comes. Journal your thoughts.
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Prayer: Lord, today, help me trust you, especially through whatever struggle comes my way. Amen.

DECEMBER 2nd - WHATEVER

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Luke 1:38

"Whatever". It's a one-word response that can be taken in many ways. When someone is asking you to do something you don't want to do, but you feel miserably obligated, you might have a sarcastic hint in your "whatever" response. If a request has been made and out of love and respect, you want to comply, you respond with a positive "whatever."

Sometimes, the "whatever" is given after a significant pause. That usually means you feel the weight of the request and want to ensure you can follow through with what is being asked. That is where Mary found herself as she pondered the words of the angel to carry and give birth to the Son of God. She responded with a thoughtful "whatever"—a reply of total abandonment of the plan of God.

- Is there a time when you gave the reply of "whatever" to the Lord? Where did it lead you? What did you learn from the experience?
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Prayer: Lord, today, my response to you is "whatever." Amen.

DECEMBER 22nd - WHATEVER – part 2

Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name, lead and guide me. Psalm 31:3

Yesterday, we were reminded of the total abandonment of Mary when she responded to her part in God's plan in the birth of God's Son. She was simply a yielded soul to the Lord. Her greatest attribute was her obedience. She leaned heavily on the fact that this was the Lord's will and trusted her life to Him.

We can all identify with Mary. Our greatest asset was her obedience. Mary's response was a confident "whatever" - not confident in herself but in God. You possess the same obedience that God longs for.

- Is there something God is calling you to do for Him in the days ahead? Don't get bogged down with a timeline or details. Trust God to lead and guide you.
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Prayer: Lord, today, I put my trust in you, "for the sake of your name, lead and guide me." Amen.

DECEMBER 23rd - LOOKING BACK TO MOVE FORWARD

I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds. Your ways, God, are holy. What god is as great as our God? Psalm 77:11-13

The last section of this journal is entitled "Slow Down." If you have followed the directed questions over the past few days, it hasn't felt like you were slowing down. You have engaged in deep soul-searching. That is the slowing down the Lord loves.

Letting go, reflecting on your journey of faith, and allowing your inner desire to submit to the Lord by saying "whatever" delights Him. Take time to consider the advice from today's scripture.

To strengthen your faith to move forward toward whatever the Lord is calling you to, you are encouraged to remember, reflect on, and meditate upon the Lord's movement in the past, in recent times, and in recent days. This may also serve as preparation for your celebration of His birth.

- God has been with you in the past. What is He calling you to in the future?
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Prayer: Lord, today, I step out, not in my own confidence, but in God's confidence. Amen.

DECEMBER 24th - ALL THAT I AM

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. Psalm 63:1

If you have followed the advice of today's scripture of earnestly seeking, then you are not disappointed. Your Advent journey has brought you here – to the exact place where you and God want you to be.

As you celebrate the birth of your Savior, may you also celebrate the deepening desire to know Him and a sense of wholeness in the Lord.

- Put into words your relationship with the Lord today. Thank Him for His steadfast grace and mercy in your journey.
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Prayer: Lord, today, I celebrate your coming with wholeness of heart. Thank you. Amen.

DECEMBER 25th - CHRIST IS BORN!

Christmas prayer:

Almighty God, who came long ago in the birth of Jesus Christ, be born in me anew today by the power of your Holy Spirit. I offer my life as home to you and ask for grace and strength to live as your faithful, joyful child always. Amen.





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