



## **Scripture nugget – Perfect abandonment to God engenders perfect peace**

*Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her (Luke: 1:31, 34, 35, 38).*

**Perfect abandonment to God engenders perfect peace.** *"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).* Mary knew that her "fiat" (let it be done in Latin) to God's request for her to be the mother of the Saviour might bring her trouble, even danger to her life. An unmarried mother in those days could be stoned to death. In saying her "fiat", Mary was ready to bear the potentially terrible consequences of her decision, and she placed no conditions on her "yes". It was a complete surrender of her life to God. It was a manifestation of Mary's deep faith in and love of God. True faith produces the good fruit of trust, a holy abandonment to the mercy and power of God. It invites God to take over our situation. Holy abandonment to God engenders peace. When St Joseph decided to divorce Mary due to her unexplained pregnancy, she said nothing in protest of her innocence but entrusted her situation to God. God showed His favour on Mary by informing St Joseph in a dream that the Child she was bearing was the Son of God. *With firm purpose You maintain peace; in peace, because of our trust in You (Isaiah 26:3).* Once we place our trust in God, God anchors our hearts and minds in His peace.

**Weak faith – an obstacle to trust in God.** To be fruitful and pleasing to God, our faith must bring forth the good fruit of trust and abandonment to God when the situation calls for it. Faith is a supernatural gift from God but whether it will grow and strengthen depends on our cooperation with God's grace which is freely given to those who can accept it. Because of our fallen human nature, we are inclined to prefer to have things under our control than to surrender a difficult situation to God. For a soul with little faith, it is extremely difficult to do this. Though we know God's love is immeasurable and His power can achieve anything, if we do not internalized these eternal truths in our hearts, they remain only an intellectual assent, and our faith cannot rise up to produce the good fruit of trust and abandonment which God so treasures. In such a situation we need to consciously work on strengthening our faith. As St Paul says to us: Work on your salvation with fear and trembling (cf. Philippians 2:12). Through a deepened interior prayer life, we open our hardened hearts to receive God's graces for the transformation of ourselves. *To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away (Matthew 13:12).* If we do not work on our faith, it will be easily lost.

**Conversation with Jesus:** Precious Lord, strengthen mightily my faith in and love for You so that I can manifest trust and abandonment to God in difficult situations. In surrendering my whole life to You, unholy fears and anxieties in my heart will be cast out, and I can say together with the psalmist: *"Though an army encamp against me, my heart does not fear; though war be waged against me, even then do I trust" (Psalm 27:3).* Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.