

In My Father's House

FINDING YOUR PLACE
IN GOD'S ETERNAL HOME

Darlene & Michael Schacht



Time-Warp Wife
MINISTRIES

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In My Father’s House: Finding Your Place in God’s Eternal Home

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Introduction



There is something about the word home that reaches deep into the soul. It carries the sound of belonging, the warmth of being welcomed, and the quiet assurance that we are valued and cherished.

Jesus spoke to His disciples about that kind of home on the night before He went to the cross. Their hearts were troubled. The road ahead was about to become more painful and confusing than they could have imagined. And into that tender moment, Jesus gave them a promise: “My Father’s house has many rooms... I am going there to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2).

Those words weren’t casual comfort. They were covenant words. Jesus was telling His disciples that His departure had purpose. He wasn’t abandoning them. He was going ahead of them. He was preparing a place for those He loved, and He promised to return and bring them to Himself.

In Jewish marriage, there were traditionally two distinct parts: the betrothal and the wedding ceremony. The first was known as *erusin*, or *kiddushin*, a word connected to the idea of being set apart. This was far more

binding than what we often think of as an engagement today. Once the betrothal took place, the bride was considered set apart for her husband, though the fullness of married life had not yet begun.

What a beautiful picture of our life in Christ.

We belong to Him now.

We have been redeemed by His blood, sealed by His Spirit, and set apart as His own. Yet we're still waiting for the day when He takes his bride home.

Paul used this kind of language when he wrote, "I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him" (2 Corinthians 11:2). The church is not wandering through this world without a future. We are loved by Christ, claimed by Christ, and called to live with faithful devotion while we wait for His return.

And He has not left us without assurance.

Scripture tells us that when we believed, we were "marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance" (Ephesians 1:13–14). The Holy Spirit is God's pledge that the Bridegroom will finish what He began. Every work of grace in us, every longing for holiness, every quiet stirring that turns our hearts back to the Lord reminds us that we belong to Him.

In the betrothal ceremony, an item of value was given as part of the covenant act. We see this in Genesis 24, when Abraham's servant brought out "gold and silver jewelry and articles of clothing" and gave them to Rebekah after the Lord confirmed that she would become Isaac's bride (Genesis 24:53). We also see the value of a bride expressed in Jacob's love for Rachel, when he agreed to serve Laban seven years for her hand in marriage (Genesis 29:18–20).

In every case, the point is clear: the bride was treasured. She was not casually taken. A cost was willingly given. And when we lift our eyes to Christ, we see a greater love behind the earthly shadow. The Bridegroom gave Himself for the bride He loves. Peter writes, "you were redeemed... with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect" (1 Peter 1:18–19).

The second part of the marriage was the wedding ceremony, often pictured beneath the chuppah, the marriage canopy. The canopy was simple, yet meaningful. It pointed to the new home the bride and groom would share together—a covering, a place of covenant, shelter, welcome, and shared life.

Traditionally, the chuppah was open on all sides, a picture often connected to the tent of Abraham and Sarah, whose home was known for hospitality. That detail matters. The home being formed beneath the canopy was not meant to be closed in on itself. It was a place where love would be lived out, where others could be welcomed, and where covenant would shape the daily rhythms of life.

And suddenly, the words of Jesus feel even more tender.

“My Father’s house has many rooms.”

The home Christ prepares for us is not cold, distant, or uncertain. It is the place where we are fully known, fully welcomed, and finally at rest. The Bridegroom doesn’t merely call us His own and leave us waiting without comfort. He covers us with grace, prepares us by His Spirit, and promises to bring us home.

Until then, we wait with hope. We live in a world that often feels temporary, fragile, and uncertain, but our future is held by Christ. He has gone before us. He is keeping us. And one day, He will bring us home.

This book is an invitation to hold that promise close. To remember that our deepest belonging is found in Christ. To lift our eyes beyond the passing comforts of this world and rest in the hope of the Father’s house.

We are set apart.

We are sealed by the Spirit.

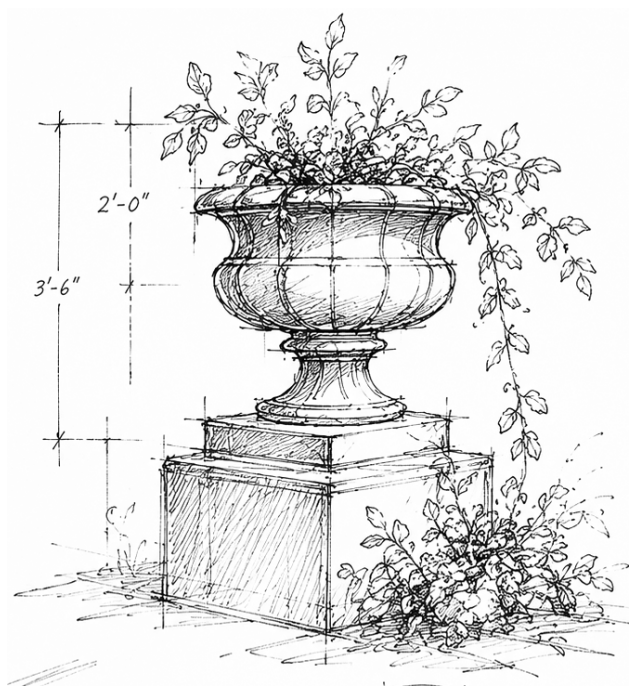
We are loved by the Bridegroom.

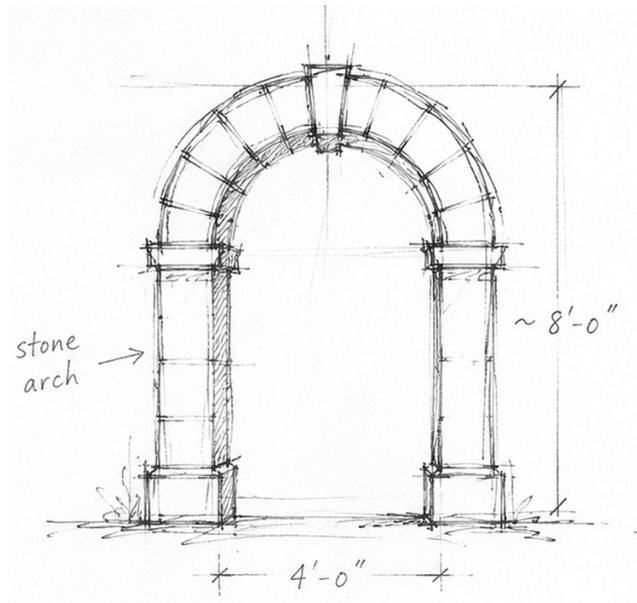
And one day, we will be home.

Chapter One



THE MASTER PLAN





THE ARCHITECT'S VISION

Scripture Focus: Luke 2:25–38

I've done two of them now, and there's a third one under the bed in the guest room. Who would have thought I'd be building dollhouses? But here I am, living the dream—or should I say, living the mess? When you stop to consider the staircase, shutters, doors, railings, porch posts, flower boxes, room dividers, gingerbread trim, and all of those tiny shingles, you quickly realize you're not working with a handful of pieces. You're working with hundreds and hundreds of them.

The first one took me about two weeks to build.

Somewhere between the sorting, the gluing, and the wondering why one little railing refused to line up, I reminded myself that a project like this doesn't come together all at once. Before beauty takes shape, there's a mess on the table. Pieces scattered everywhere. Instructions spread out in front of you. A finished picture on the box that looks nothing like the pieces you are holding in your hands.

And really, some days it's the picture on the box that keeps me going—the promise that all these scattered pieces have a purpose and a place.

When you stop to think about it, doesn't every home begin in much the same way?

Long before a shovel breaks the soil, the architect envisions every detail of the home. He knows where every stone will be laid, where every wall will stand, and where every beam will bear its weight. Every detail, from the number of nails to the size of the hinges, is carefully designed with forethought and care.

He sees the finished picture. Everyone else just sees the mess.

If you've ever built a home or undergone a renovation, you know how chaotic the process can be. The delays you didn't expect, the decisions you didn't plan for, and the dust that somehow finds its way into every corner.

That's the lens we tend to look through when it comes to our lives.

*He sees the
finished picture.
Everyone else just
sees the mess.*

Bound by time, we only see the struggles of today—the disappointments, the waiting, the interruptions, and the seasons that leave us weary and uncertain. We see the noise, the dust, and the confusion of the present moment. And if we're not careful—if we don't trust the Master Builder—we might mistake the work in progress for work that's left undone.

Turning to Scripture, we're gently reminded that isn't the case. "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).

There's a plan unfolding that's far greater than what we can see. The shaping, the refining, the trials, and even the waiting all serve a purpose: to prepare us to come home.

And while He's preparing us, He's preparing our eternal home—a permanent and beautiful dwelling where He will live with His people forever.

Paul writes that God “has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began” (2 Timothy 1:9).

Before creation itself, the desire to bring His people into unbroken fellowship with Him was already established within the heart of God.

This was never a temporary plan.

Never improvised.

Never uncertain.

We see this truth beautifully illustrated in the life of Abraham. Hebrews tells us that he was “looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God” (Hebrews 11:10).

Abraham never saw that city during his lifetime. He lived in tents, journeyed through unfamiliar lands, and trusted promises that would not be fully realized until long after he was gone. Yet he continued walking by faith because he trusted the promises of God.

And we’re called to do the same.

Like strangers in a foreign country, we look forward to the day that we go home. Until then, we trust the One who promised it. Through every season of shaping, refining, and growth, we surrender our lives to His will.

That kind of trust is the essence of faith.

We don't have to understand every detail of His plan.

We can trust the One who does.

God is lovingly preparing us for something eternal, and when we begin to see that, it changes the way we view our lives. Every difficult season, every lesson in surrender, and every moment that draws us closer to Him becomes part of His gracious work in our lives.

The Apostle Peter brings this beautiful truth close to home when he writes: "As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house..." (1 Peter 2:4–5).

Peter reminds us that God is not merely preparing a place. He is also preparing a people. Through every season of life, the Holy Spirit is patiently shaping believers into the image of Christ, teaching them to trust Him more deeply and drawing them into the eternal purpose God established long ago.

One day, the dwelling God planned before the foundation of the world
will stand complete in all its beauty.

Until then, we walk by faith.

Trusting the Architect.

Following the Cornerstone.

Yielding to the work of the Master Craftsman.

And looking forward to the home God has been preparing from the very
beginning.

Word Study: Rooms

In John 14:2, Jesus comforts His disciples with a beautiful promise:

“My Father’s house has many rooms... I am going there to prepare a
place for you” (John 14:2, NIV).

The Greek word translated as “rooms” or “mansions” is μοναὶ (monai),
the plural form of μονή (monē). This word carries the idea of a permanent
dwelling place, an abiding home, or a lasting place of rest. It speaks of
something settled and enduring rather than temporary or uncertain.

What a comforting picture for weary hearts.

Jesus was not describing a temporary shelter or a passing resting place.
He was assuring His followers that they belong within the Father’s eternal
household. As we walk by faith through the dust and shaping of this present
life, we do so with the confidence that Christ Himself is preparing an
eternal home for His people.

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eternal household. As we walk by faith through the shaping of this present
life, we do so with the confidence that Christ Himself is preparing an
eternal home for His people.





Read Hebrews 11:8–10 and John 14:1–3. What do these passages reveal about the hope that sustained Abraham and the comfort Jesus gives His followers?

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A Quiet Strength: Anna

A house is only as strong as the foundation beneath it. The same is true in the life of a believer.

Seasons of waiting have a way of revealing what rests at the center of our hearts. When life unfolds differently than we expected, when prayers seem unanswered, or when loss leaves an empty space in our lives, what we truly depend upon is often brought into view.

Few people illustrate this truth more clearly than Anna—a woman who spent years waiting on the Lord and trusting His promises.

We meet her in Luke chapter 2. Scripture tells us that she was widowed after only a few years of marriage. The future she may have imagined was suddenly changed. Yet rather than allowing sorrow to define her life, she drew near to God.

Day after day, year after year, Anna worshiped, fasted, and prayed. She trusted that the Lord had not forgotten His promises. While others measured time by passing seasons, Anna measured it by the faithfulness of God. The passing years never diminished her confidence that God would keep His word.

Then, one ordinary day, everything changed.

Mary and Joseph entered the temple carrying their Child. Led by the Holy Spirit, Anna immediately recognized Him. After years of waiting, she stood face-to-face with the fulfillment of God's promise—the long-awaited Messiah.

What a beautiful reminder for all of us.

God had been at work all along.

Even in the years when Anna couldn't see what He was doing.

Her story reminds us that faith is strengthened in the waiting. The Lord is still at work when His plans unfold more slowly than we would like. He sees what we can't see, and He remains faithful when the road ahead feels uncertain.

Like Anna, we are waiting too.

We are waiting for the day when we see the Lord face to face. We are waiting for the home God has promised and the fellowship with Him that will never end. And while we wait, we trust that He is accomplishing His purposes in ways we can't always see.

The Savior Anna rejoiced to see is still faithful today. The Architect has not abandoned His plans, and He has not forgotten His promises. As we rest in Him, we can move forward with confidence, knowing that the One who began His work will bring it to completion.

Faith in Action

Take a few quiet moments today to think about one area of your life that feels unfinished, uncertain, or messy. Maybe it's a relationship, a season of waiting, a burden you've been carrying, or a place where you simply don't understand what God is doing.

Write down Philippians 1:6 and read it slowly: "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Now place that unfinished area before the Lord in prayer. Ask Him to help you trust His timing, His wisdom, and His careful work in your life. You may not see the finished picture yet, but you can trust the One who does.

Read Luke 2:36–38. What does Anna’s life teach us about faithful waiting, and how does her response to seeing Jesus point us to the larger hope of redemption God had promised throughout Scripture?

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Can you think of a season when God proved faithful even though you couldn't see what He was doing at the time? Looking back now, how did that experience strengthen your trust in Him?

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The Prayer Closet

Is there an area of your life that currently feels unfinished, uncertain, or delayed? Bring it before the Lord and ask Him to strengthen your faith as you trust His timing and His purpose.

Father in Heaven,

You are the ultimate Architect who sees the end from the beginning. Long before the foundation of the world, You established Your plan and prepared an eternal dwelling for Your people. I praise You that the Holy Spirit is faithfully shaping my heart even when I cannot fully understand what You are doing.

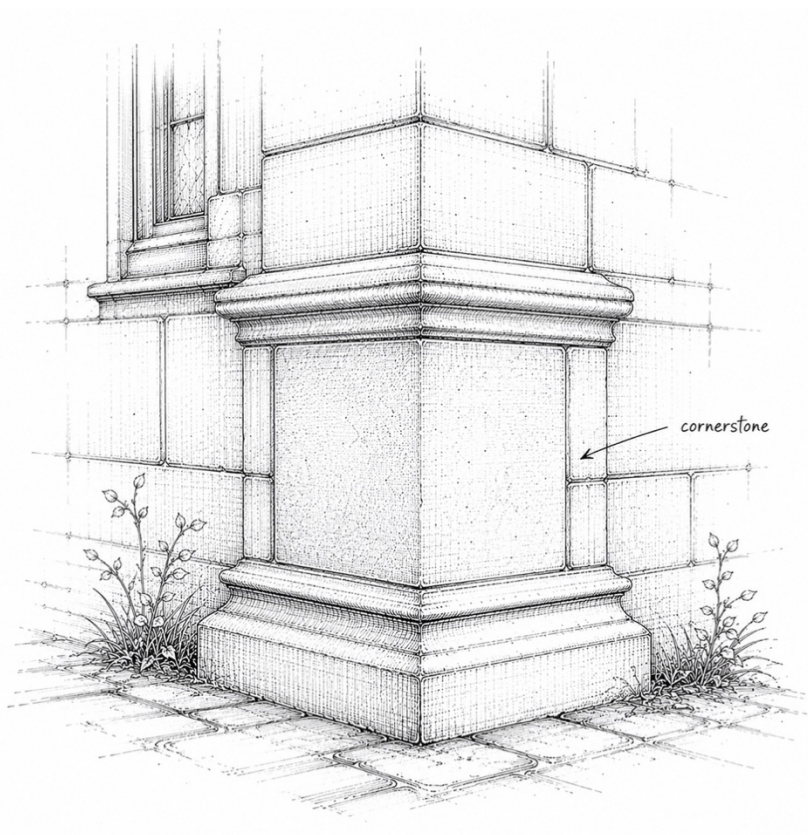
Give me the faith of Abraham to look beyond the temporary tents of this world and fix my eyes on the City You have promised. Help me trust Your wisdom when the blueprint is hidden and rest in the certainty that You never lose sight of Your design. Teach me to walk by faith while the work is still unfolding, knowing that every season of shaping is moving me closer to the home You have prepared from the beginning.

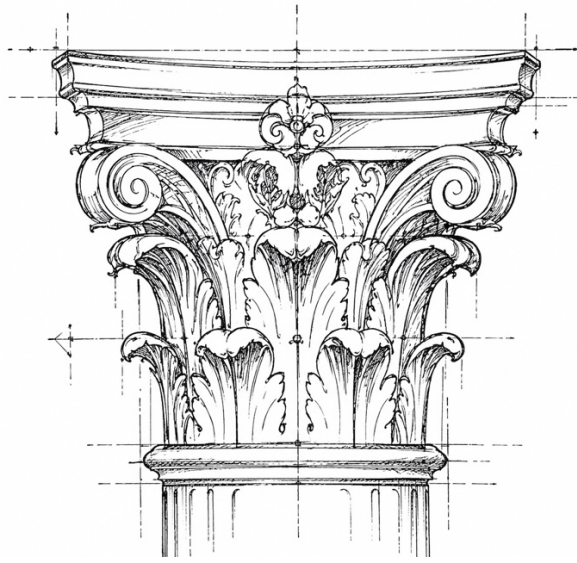
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter Two



THE CORNERSTONE





BUILT UPON CHRIST

Scripture Focus: Luke 1:26–38

Did I mention that I also make dolls? When I began sewing them, I also started making clothes for them—adorable little dresses with tiny sleeves and perfectly gathered skirts.

If I'm being honest, I thought I was very good at sewing. In fact, I still remember being told I was the best in our school. So when I picked up sewing again, I assumed I already knew what I was doing.

But this past year humbled me.

I realized there were important steps I had been skipping for years. Understitching. Grading seams. And most importantly—staystitching.

Staystitching is one of those quiet, almost invisible steps. It's a simple line of stitching placed just inside the seam allowance, usually around curves or necklines, that keeps the fabric from stretching out of shape before it's sewn together.

Skip it, and the neckline can warp.

Skip it, and the pieces don't line up quite right.

Skip it, and you spend the rest of the day trying to fix what shifted in the beginning.

It keeps everything in place before the real work begins.

As I got to thinking about this today, I was reminded how much depends on what is established first.

We rush through our days. We tell ourselves we'll come back to our time with the Lord later. We move straight into serving, planning, cleaning, organizing, responding, fixing, helping.

All good things.

But when the foundation shifts, everything else feels the pull of it.

That is why Scripture's picture of Christ as our Cornerstone is so powerful.

Today, we often think of a cornerstone as something decorative—a polished stone engraved with a date or inscription. In ancient times, however, the cornerstone served a far greater purpose.

It was the first stone set into place, and every other stone took its position from it. Because the entire structure depended on its accuracy, the cornerstone had to be carefully cut, measured, and secured. A flaw in that one stone could affect everything built upon it.

When God established the foundation for our eternal home, He chose a flawless Cornerstone: His Son, Jesus Christ.

The apostle Peter writes: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame" (1 Peter 2:6).

What a beautiful promise.

Peter does more than identify Christ as the Cornerstone. He points us toward trust. The one who places their faith in Him will never be put to shame.

That is where we live today.

We haven't seen the home God is preparing yet. We haven't entered the city Abraham longed for. Like the saints who have gone before us, we walk by faith, trusting the One upon whom everything stands.

Until that day comes, we wait with hopeful anticipation, trusting that God will bring us home. But waiting has a way of stretching the soul as we long to be there with Him.

There are days when life feels uncertain. We see our weaknesses. We carry burdens we never expected. We wonder if we're strong enough for the journey ahead.

In those moments, it's easy to believe that everything depends on us. But our lives were never meant to rest on our own strength. They were meant to rest in Christ. And He is able to sustain us every step of the way.

Because He's steady, we can rest.

Because He's faithful, we can hope.

Because He's unchanging, we can trust Him.

David understood this kind of trust. His life was marked by uncertainty, opposition, and seasons of deep distress. Yet he repeatedly described the Lord as his rock, fortress, and refuge.

In Psalm 62, he writes, "Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken" (Psalm 62:6).

*Our lives were never
meant to rest on our
own strength.
They were meant
to rest in Christ.*

David's stability didn't come from a trouble-free life. It came from his steadfast assurance in God.

Paul reminds us that believers are "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:20).

The apostles and prophets faithfully preserved and proclaimed this truth.

Through their testimony, generation after generation has been directed back to Christ. Their message continually points beyond themselves to the One upon whom everything stands.

Paul continues by saying that "in him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord" (Ephesians 2:21). He reminds believers that they are being built together into a dwelling place for God by His Spirit (Ephesians 2:22).

Isn't that an incredible picture? God is not only preparing an eternal home for His people, He is also at work among His people even now, shaping them into a place where His presence is known and His glory is displayed.

While God's work in us continues, the Cornerstone remains unchanged.

The world shifts.

Circumstances rise and fall.

Our emotions are pulled in every direction.

But Christ remains the same.

One day, the city God has promised will be revealed, and the home He planned before the foundation of the world will stand complete.

What we now trust, we will then see with our own eyes.

Until that day, we keep looking to Christ.

Trusting the Cornerstone.

Following His lead.

Resting in the certainty that the One who began God's eternal plan will bring it to completion.

Word Study: Chief Cornerstone

In Ephesians 2:20, Paul describes Jesus as the “chief cornerstone.” The Greek word is *akrogōnīaios* (ἀκρογωνιαίος), which refers to a cornerstone placed at the most important corner of a building. It was the stone that joined two walls together and provided a fixed point of reference for the entire structure.

Paul didn't invent this picture. He was drawing from a much older promise found in the book of Isaiah:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic” (Isaiah 28:16).

Long before Christ was born, God had already declared that He would establish a sure foundation for His people. Jesus is that foundation.

The word *akrogōniaios* reminds us that Christ is not merely part of God's plan—He is central to it. Everything God is building finds its alignment in Him. He joins together what was once divided and provides a firm foundation for all who trust in Him.

When life feels uncertain, we do not look to ourselves for stability. We look to Christ, the Cornerstone God has chosen, tested, and established forever.



We learned that every stone in an ancient structure took its alignment from the cornerstone. How does keeping your eyes fixed on Christ bring stability and direction when life feels uncertain?

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A Quiet Strength: Mary the Mother of Jesus

One of the greatest challenges of faith is trusting God's plan before we can see where it leads.

God rarely reveals His plan all at once. More often than not, He invites us to take the next step in obedience while the road ahead remains hidden from view. Throughout Scripture, we see men and women who learned to trust God in this way, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, stands among the most beautiful examples.

When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, the Lord revealed a calling that would dramatically change her life. She would become the mother of the promised Messiah. And along with that calling came countless unanswered questions. How would others respond? What hardships lay ahead? What would this path require of her?

Mary couldn't see what the future would hold; all she had was a calling from God. She didn't know all the joys, sorrows, sacrifices, and uncertainties that lay ahead. She couldn't see Bethlehem, the shepherds, the cross, or the empty tomb. Yet she willingly surrendered herself to the Lord, trusting the One who was leading the way.

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

There is a quiet courage in those words.

Mary stood at the edge of a future she couldn't see, holding nothing but the promise of God. Yet she opened her hands in surrender. She didn't demand explanations. She didn't wait for certainty. She simply entrusted herself to the Lord, believing that the One who writes every tomorrow was worthy of her trust today.

Her confidence was never rooted in her own understanding of God's plan. It was rooted in the Lord Himself.

Her story reminds us that faith is not having every answer before we take the next step. It is trusting the Lord enough to move forward even when much remains unknown. Like Mary, we are often asked to surrender our need for certainty and rest in the One upon whom our faith is built.

The same Lord who led Mary continues to lead us today. He already stands in the tomorrows we cannot yet see. And while we may not know all that lies ahead, we can rest in the certainty that God never loses sight of His plan.

Faith in Action

Before you move into the demands of today, take a few quiet moments to come back to your Cornerstone. Open your Bible to Psalm 62:6 and read it slowly: “Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.”

Then ask yourself: *What area of my life has felt pulled out of shape lately?* Maybe it’s your thoughts, your schedule, your emotions, your priorities, or a burden you’ve been trying to carry in your own strength.

Bring that place honestly before the Lord. Ask Him to steady your heart in Christ before you step into the rest of your day. Let this be the quiet stitch that holds things in place: a few moments of prayer, surrender, and trust before the real work begins.

? What does Mary's willingness to obey God, despite so many unanswered questions, teach us about building our lives on a foundation of faith?

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? Have you ever experienced the stability that comes from resting in God during a season of hardship? What did that experience teach you about His faithfulness?

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The Prayer Closet

Is there an area of your life where fear, uncertainty, or pressure has been pulling your heart away from quiet trust in the Lord. Intentionally place that burden upon Christ today, reminding yourself that the foundation beneath you cannot fail even when life feels unstable.

Father in Heaven,

Thank You for providing a perfect and unshakable foundation through Your Son, Jesus Christ. When my heart feels weak and uncertain, remind me that my security does not rest on my own strength, but upon the faithfulness of the Cornerstone beneath me.

Like David, teach me to rest in Your faithfulness when circumstances shift around me, trusting that You alone are my rock and my refuge.

Help me measure my life according to Christ rather than the shifting standards of this world, and give me quiet confidence knowing that the household You are building will stand forever.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

ANSWER KEY



Chapter 1

Read Hebrews 11:8–10 and John 14:1–3. What do these passages reveal about the hope that sustained Abraham and the comfort Jesus gives His followers?

Abraham was sustained by the promise of a permanent heavenly city built by God. Jesus comforts His followers by assuring them that He is preparing a place for them and will one day bring them home to be with Him. Both passages point to the eternal dwelling God has prepared for His people.

Read Luke 2:36–38. What does Anna’s life teach us about faithful waiting, and how does her response to seeing Jesus point us to the larger hope of redemption God had promised throughout Scripture?

Anna's life teaches us to trust God's promises even when fulfillment seems delayed. When she recognized Jesus as the Messiah, she rejoiced because God's long-awaited plan of redemption had begun to unfold through Him, offering salvation to His people.

Can you think of a season when God proved faithful even though you couldn't see what He was doing at the time? Looking back now, how did that experience strengthen your trust in Him?

This answer will be different for everyone.

Chapter 2

We learned that every stone in an ancient structure took its alignment from the cornerstone. How does keeping your eyes fixed on Christ bring stability and direction when life feels uncertain?

Keeping our eyes on Christ helps us make decisions according to His truth rather than our emotions or circumstances. He provides the stability and direction we need when life feels uncertain.

What does Mary's willingness to obey God, despite so many unanswered questions, teach us about building our lives on a foundation of faith?

Mary teaches us that faith trusts God's character even when we do not understand His plans. A strong foundation is built through obedience and confidence in God's promises.

Have you ever experienced the stability that comes from resting in God during a season of hardship? What did that experience teach you about His faithfulness?

This answer will be different for everyone.

