

Can't Possibly

by Megan T. Smith

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**“The angel Gabriel from heaven came
with wings as drifted snow and eyes as flame,
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady. Gloria!"**

“The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came”

Basque origin, author unknown

trans. Charles Bordes

France, 19th century

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The angel Gabriel had good news for Mary, the most wonderful news anyone would ever hear: the long-promised Messiah was finally coming. The catch? Mary would be the one to give birth to Him. Mary was a child herself when Gabriel told her that she, an unmarried 13-year-old virgin, would bear a son who was to be Christ the LORD.

We aren't face to face with angels and their flaming eyes, nor are we being asked to give birth to the Son of God, but we still can feel like too much is being asked of us. I can't possibly endure this pain forever; I can't possibly live without my wife, my husband; I can't possibly let my baby go; I can't possibly fight this cancer I'm diagnosed with; I can't possibly lose my mom, my job, my home, my retirement... **I CAN'T!!!**

Was there a part of Mary that wanted to gape up into Gabriel's flame-like eyes and tell him he was crazy? That he's got the wrong girl? That he's got to be kidding?! Maybe. But she still said, "Let it be to me according to your word," (from [Luke 1:26-38](#)). Faith doesn't mean we're not scared. It means we know God loves us no matter what. Trust—like love—is a choice made possible by the faith given to us through Word and Sacrament. It's not a feeling.



Christmas isn't a feeling either. Merry or not, it's about Jesus *for* us, not about us and how many presents we get or how many Christmas parties we're invited to. So enjoy. Trial and tribulation comes for us all at different times in our lives, some of it so awful I am honestly amazed that people—normal, real people like you and me—make it through the pain. But we do. How? The very same way Mary was able to trust God: by knowing that He loved her. Because Jesus turned His back on His heavenly throne and humbled Himself to be born of this brave woman, God will always provide a path through whatever wilderness surrounds you. Trust in that even if you don't trust in yourself. The catch? We have to go to church to hear about His love more often than once or twice a year or we'll forget it even exists, much less applies to us.

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Suggested verse to repeat if it's a difficult day is [Hebrews 10:31](#)

“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

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