

*"But Mary Kept All These Things, And Pondered Them in her heart." Luke 2:19 KJV*

Mary never saw the angelic host nor heard their singing. The angel came to her when she was alone. I'm sure Satan tried to make her believe she had hallucinated it. But God confirmed her faith by appearing to Joseph as well. Two separate experiences that reinforced the other's faith. Her cousin Elisabeth also confirmed it by saying, *"Blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord."* This is how fellowship strengthens believers. The shepherd's faith was reaffirmed by the discovery of the Child. If they had not sought, their faith would have turned to doubt within them. Mary kept and pondered all. Her faith was extraordinarily brilliant. The Biblical



account only gives one instance of angelic contact for Mary. I'm sure she was full of questions, but she simply kept and pondered. In her own words we hear testimony to the fact that she was a sinner that hoped in the Messiah for she said, *"My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God MY Saviour. For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me Blessed."* She knew that God would reveal His Plan in His Own Time, so she waited. I don't think she ever didn't doubt, but she quietly exulted when the Ministry of Christ produced miracles. The ultimate end of her faith went through trial and tragedy at Calvary to victorious triumph when Christ rose again. Through it all we have no indication of her vocalizing doubt of any kind. She somewhat interfered once at the Cana marriage feast, but that is all that's recorded. We need to be more like Mary; simply trust and obey; keeping and pondering in our hearts the Lord's hand in our lives and others. Simple acceptance is the hallmark of untarnished faith. Many are afraid of faith, choosing rather to stay in their dark little realm of physical reality. They are afraid of the Light of Truth. It's not fear of the dark that dooms men, it's fear of the Light. *"Men loved darkness rather than Light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the Light, neither cometh to the Light, lest his deeds should be reproved."* Which of your deeds are making you fearful of Truth? Only the blind beggars that sought Christ out received their sight. Do you seek the Light of Truth, or will you remain a blind beggar? *"The god of this world hath blinded the minds of THEM WHICH BELIEVE NOT, lest the Light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the Image of God, should shine unto them."* Doubt is unbelief and closes the door on the Light of Truth! Everyone is blind in the dark!

Keep and ponder everything,  
Until the light of Truth it brings,  
Simply accept by faith alone,  
And you will end up safely Home. -CGP

The fearful can never inherit eternal Life. *"But the FEARFUL...shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone."* It takes courage to trust the Word of God. *"As for God, His Way is Perfect; the Word of the LORD is tried: He is a Buckler to all them that trust in Him."* Don't stay in the dark fields of doubt. Seek the Light while He may be found. Don't be afraid of faith. Its reward is eternal!

*"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the Second Death."* Revelation 21:8 KJV