

Perhaps the most important thing we know about Mary, the mother of Jesus, comes from her own words to the angel Gabriel when she was told of God's plan for her.

First, she referred to herself as a "maidservant of the Lord". This word could be translated as "servant", "bondservant", or "slave". It carried with it the idea of compulsion or obligation - that is, a role that Mary wasn't free to reject. How did Mary come to view herself as a young woman obligated to serve God with her life? We don't know. But we do know that her commitment to God resulted in Gabriel referring to her as "highly favoured" in God's sight. (Luke 1:28) Second was her response to Gabriel's announcement: "Let it be to me according to Your Word." Once she received the amazing explanation of how she, a virgin, could give birth to a baby (Luke 1:35), there was no hesitation, questioning, or debate. Mary simply said "Yes" to God.

When it comes to submitting to God, the fewer words the better. Only one word is truly necessary: "Yes".

Luke 1:38 "Then Mary said: 'Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to Your Word.'"