

## It All Points to You: Look Within

By Gloria Lilly-Holt

The Christmas season is many things to different people. For some the emphasis is on exchanging gifts, and for others it may be a time of family gathering. Unfortunately, for many others the season is a reminder of personal losses, causing many to relive pain and times of depression. If we choose, Christmas can be a time of learning for each of us as we remember the birth of Jesus and apply what we perceive and understand about his birth to our life and innermost being.

The Metaphysical Bible Dictionary tells us that Jesus is “*The ‘I’ in man, the self, the directive power raised to divine understanding and power — the I AM identity.*” *Jesus represents God’s idea of man in expression; Christ is that idea in the absolute. Jesus Christ was the type of man which includes all the mental phases through which man passes in demonstrating life’s problems.*” This awareness will not allow us to forget our life’s purpose and responsibility — to bring forth the Christ just as Jesus did, as our Way Shower and example. Therefore, the birth of the infant in the manger was only the beginning of a new journey. Taking a closer look, one could ask the question, “*Did it all really start with Jesus?*” Many denominations have given a significant character of the nativity scene an insignificant role.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is this other character of importance, yet she is too often overlooked. After all, she was the receptor and incubator of this divine figure. What she represents as an archetypal figure has a message for us. Have you ever considered what was so special about the handmaiden, Mary?

Gabriel, the angel of the Lord, provides a clue in his salutation to Mary: “*Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you...Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.*” (Luke 1:28-29 NRSV) The Message Bible says it this way: “*Good morning! You’re beautiful with God’s beauty. Beautiful inside and out! God be with you.*” Most of us are accustomed to the traditional King James version: “*Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee...*” To many, the word **favor** implies partiality, and this is incorrect...Mary is favored because of her very nature. Metaphysically, Mary represents, the feminine, the soul, the affectionate and emotional phase of man’s being. Mary, the mother of Jesus, represents the soul that magnifies the Lord ‘daily in the temple’ and through its devotions prepares for the higher life.”

In the Greek language, the word for **grace** has the same meaning as **favor** in Hebrew. Grace is “*the divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the life.*” (Strong’s Concordance) Therefore, we find the Message Bible’s interpretation as “*You’re beautiful with God’s beauty...*” from the Hebrew **favor**, is a result of satisfying debt, accomplishing, being approved of, reconciling self through the soul (Mary) entreaty, supplication, and prayer (daily devotion) in the temple (mind, soul, body). In this activity, God finds pleasure and is pleased; principle is at work. Gabriel signifies man in realization and demonstration of his ‘I Am’ power and might, and therefore is the harbinger of this good news. Just as Mary refers to the divine

feminine and love, Gabriel could also refer to the masculine or wisdom phase of the divine in man. The connection of the two, masculine and feminine, causes us to be conscious of the Christ within the self and to individually express and manifest the Christ. Our responsibility is to remember who we are rather than worshipping the personality of Jesus. What he did, we too will do.

So let us rejoice as we realize that it all points to each of us. Mary's story is our story also. Take a close look at what her story is saying to *you!*