

# PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

## *Sent to be Received*

A gift given, but not received, **deprives the giver and the beneficiary**

**John 1:11**

*“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.”*

**John 1:12**

*“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name”*

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What would hinder someone from receiving Him?

- It's something **ONLY** God can give (we can't get for ourselves)
- We must acknowledge **His Absolute Supremacy**
- It's something we wouldn't even dream of on our own (**too fantastic**)

**Luke 1:26-37**

Might that be a little challenging to receive?

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**Luke 1:38 & 2:19**

Then Mary said, “Behold the **maidservant** of the Lord! **Let it be to me according to your word.**”

**But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.**

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Three things needed to truly receive Him

- 1) - Believe

- 2) - Keep

- 3) - Ponder

.....

We must **believe Him to receive Him**

- Believe that it **IS** Him, and we are **subservient**

- Which empowers us to believe **What He promises**

It is **God** who **gives us the opportunity to believe**

**John 6:44**

*“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him”*

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To **Keep**, is to **Treasure**

- Because **we know it is God** and we believe Him
- **We Value** what He says and gives **as Life Itself!**
- We don't forget, or discard – like an event experience

**John 1:4**

*“In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.”*

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To **Ponder**, is to **Hold before Him**, continually

- As **our love**, responding to **His Love**
- **Heart, Soul & Mind** (actively – **strength**)
- To love **the gift of His promise**

Until He brings it into being... **Knowing He will.**

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**These three responses** sustained Mary & Joseph...

**Their faith in God.**

*I wonder if they thought of Moses, Joseph & David*  
.....  
*Our celebration of Christmas is **our response to His promises***

- *We think of Mary & Joseph...*
- *Knowing **God calls us, just as He did them...***

*To **Receive** the life of His Son...*

*To **Keep Him** as the treasure of our life...*

*To **Hold Him** in our hearts in love...*

*And **bring Him into our world***  
.....

***Luke 1:35 & Acts 1:8***

*The angel answered, "**The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.**"*

***Acts 1:8***

*"**But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**"*

***Lord – We believe You – And we receive Your life into ours – Heart, Soul, Mind & Strength... To live as evidence of Your Love – by the power of Your Holy Spirit – in Jesus Name.***

***Merry Christmas!***