

CHRISTMAS:

IT'S

NOT

YOUR

BIRTHDAY



IT'S NOT YOUR BIRTHDAY

Giving Up On Perfect
Luke 1:26-38

PERFECT

- having no mistakes or flaws
- completely correct or accurate
- having all the qualities you want in that kind of person, situation, etc.

1. THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT



2. DECORATING



3. CHRISTMAS TREE



4. THE MUSIC



5. FAMILY



6. THE CHRISTMAS DINNER



7. REMEMBER



WHAT ABOUT THE PROTOTYPE

²⁶ In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For nothing is impossible with God.”

³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

FOUR TRUTHS THAT CAN TRANSFORM CHRISTMAS

1. Perfection is not the focus of Christmas, redemption is.
2. God comes to us in our weakness and bring hope and light.
3. Christmas may call for excellence but we should give up on perfect.
4. The greatest expression of the Christmas spirit is found in what we give rather than what we receive.



2015 WORLD WATCH LIST

The World Watch List is a ranking of the top 50 countries where the persecution of Christians is most severe.

Open Doors works in the world's most oppressive countries, strengthening Christians to stand strong in the face of persecution and equipping them to shine Christ's light in these places.



Extreme Persecution	4	Syria	11	Maldives	18	Qatar	25	Myanmar	32	Comoros	39	Oman	46	Azerbaijan	
Severe Persecution	5	Afghanistan	12	Saudi Arabia	19	Kenya	26	Palestinian Territories	33	Tanzania	40	Mali	47	Indonesia	
Moderate Persecution	6	Sudan	13	Libya	20	Turkmenistan	27	Brunei	34	Algeria	41	Turkey	48	Mauritania	
Sparse Persecution	7	Iran	14	Yemen	21	India	28	Laos	35	Colombia	42	Kazakhstan	49	United Arab Emirates	
1	North Korea	8	Pakistan	15	Uzbekistan	22	Ethiopia	29	China	36	Tunisia	43	Bangladesh	50	Kuwait
2	Somalia	9	Eritrea	16	Vietnam	23	Egypt	30	Jordan	37	Malaysia	44	Sri Lanka		
3	Iraq	10	Nigeria	17	Central African Republic	24	Djibouti	31	Bhutan	38	Mexico	45	Tajikistan		

TO GO . . .

- Is God impressed with our "pursuit of perfection?"
- How can the "pursuit of perfection" rob us of the true joys of life?
- How will you share the transforming power of God's grace this Christmas?