

Do We Hear the Message When the Angel Isn't There? – Karen Janota

Read Luke 1:26-32

Okay, imagine being a teenager and having an angel appear before you, telling you not to be afraid. How would you feel? Would you even hear the, "You have found favor with God"? I think I'd surely have to have him repeat what comes next. Now, at my current age, the part that follows would elicit a huge laugh and disbelief, despite the fact that "all things are possible."

If we are to follow the will of God, we have to work to open ourselves to hearing God's voice in the many ways He may present to us. We all have the gift of discernment, but that gift can be honed and polished. Silence in contemplation is one way, but God often presents us with opportunities in the middle of a crowd. On these occasions, listening becomes important. THE WAY OF DISCERNMENT is part of the COMPANIONS IN CHRIST series that perhaps we need to repeat.

It has been my experience that God will put the people in my path that he wants me to help. He gives me the thought about which He wants me to write. He has led me to studies to prepare for what He has given me to do. Trust Him to equip you to do as He asks. He did that for Mary, sending her the angel. What we need to do is to be observant for those opportunities to use the gifts He's given us in service for His will. Mother Ruth called me from Tennessee to go pray for and with a woman who was in the hospital here. I did and was blessed to meet a woman who was preparing to meet her Lord, and was smiling through her pain. We talked and laughed and then we prayed. She was at peace when I left and I knew I had completed my task. So, when Tonya texts me to do something she knows is in my wheelhouse, I'm happy to comply. We probably won't have Gabriel visit with a message, but the messages will come nonetheless. How will you answer when God needs something from you?

Father God, please give me the opportunity to be a blessing to someone today. Help me to be observant of a need, willing to listen, and to take action if needed. In Jesus' name, amen.

Today I will watch for needs that I can help with.