

The background is a solid blue color with a pattern of white, stylized evergreen branches or snowflakes scattered across it.

A Little More Like Mary

Luke 1

Luke 1:38-45

› ³⁸ Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.³⁹ Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰ and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

Luke 1:38-45

› ⁴¹ And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

Luke 1:38-45

› ***⁴⁴ For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."***



› *What if we stopped the idea of faith being, “I believe” and changed it to, “I know”?*

Hebrews 11:1-3

› Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses]. ² For by this [kind of] faith the men of old gained [divine] approval. ³ By faith [that is, with an inherent trust and enduring confidence in the power, wisdom and goodness of God] we understand that the worlds (universe, ages) were framed *and* created [formed, put in order, and equipped for their intended purpose] by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible. (AMP)

James 1:5-8

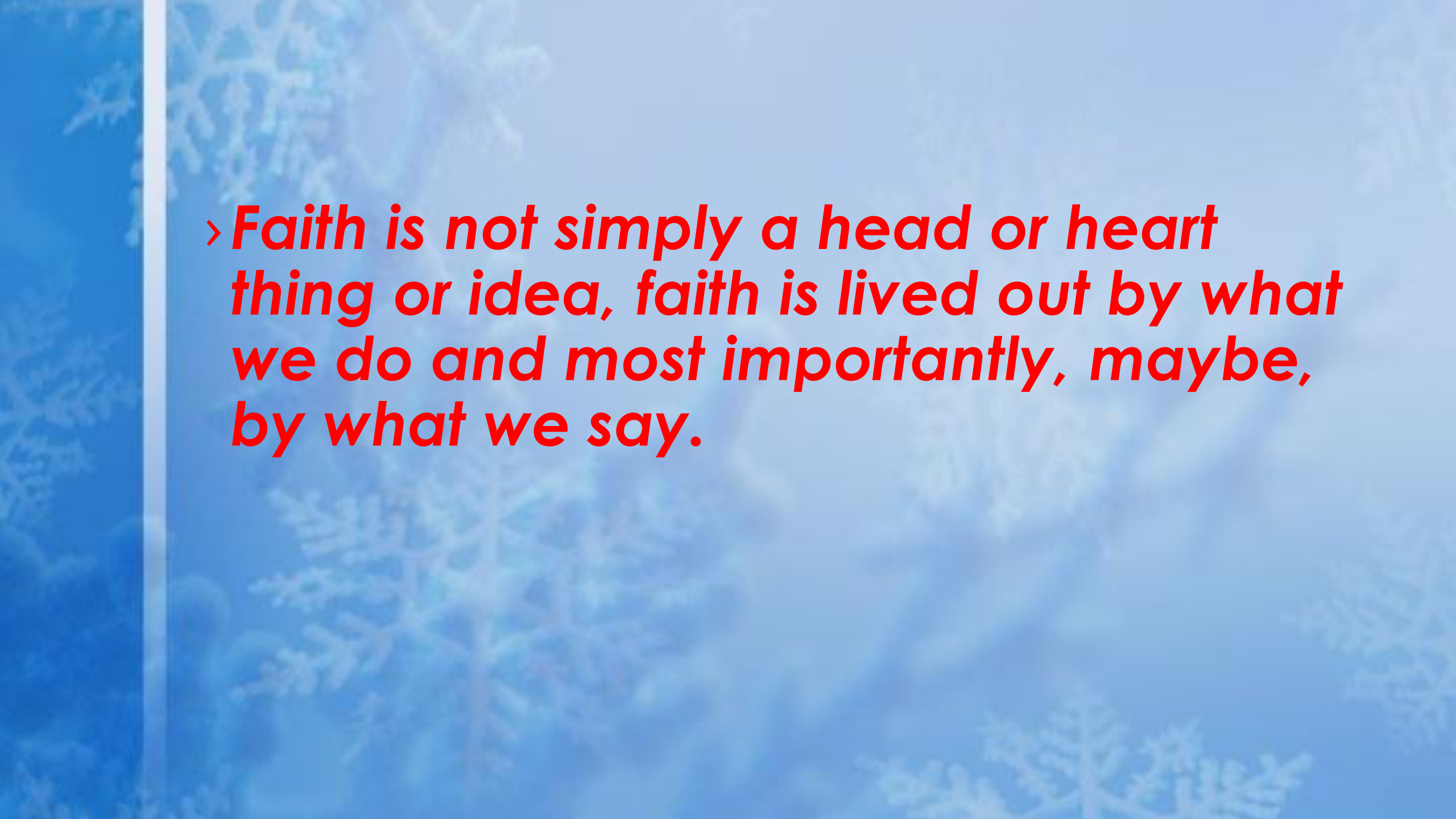
› ⁵ If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. ⁶ But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do. (NLT)

Faith is manifested in the most difficult circumstances.

- › *Zacharias looked at the natural and doubted.*
- › *Yet, it was his shortcomings and limitations that necessitated the prayer in the first place.*
- › *He knew he could not do it and then doubt when God came to help.*

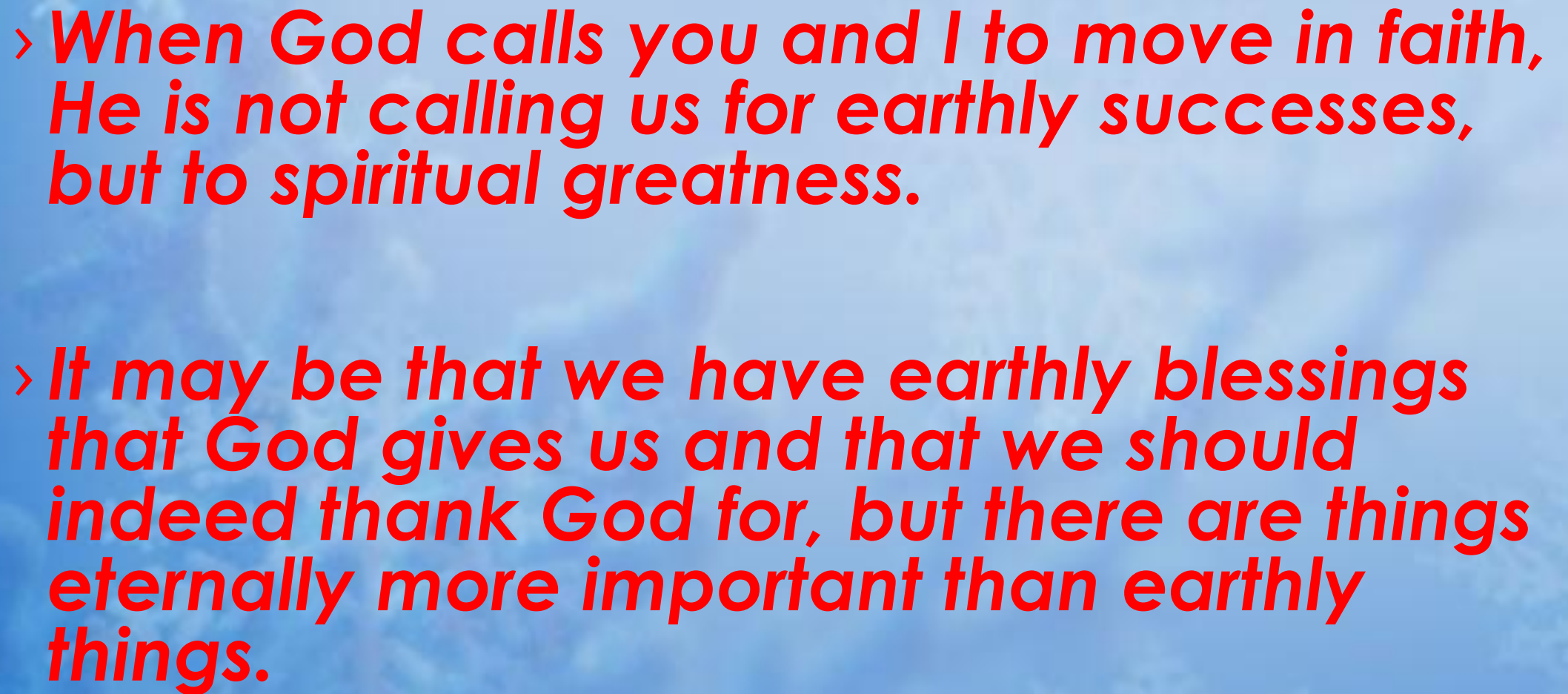
› ***Faith takes ownership of God's promises.***

› ***Hebrews 11:1-3 - Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen...***



› *Faith is not simply a head or heart thing or idea, faith is lived out by what we do and most importantly, maybe, by what we say.*

› ***Notice, those who received God's promises that those promises did not simply benefit themselves, but the receiving of those promises benefited and impacted others.***

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- › *When God calls you and I to move in faith, He is not calling us for earthly successes, but to spiritual greatness.*
 - › *It may be that we have earthly blessings that God gives us and that we should indeed thank God for, but there are things eternally more important than earthly things.*

One person's faith may change the course for many.

- › Luke 5:20 - When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."***
- › James 5:16 - Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.***