



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC How Do I Know My Faith is Real?

SPEAKER

DSP Edric Sng

THEME Faith for Every Season

DATE

13 & 14 Dec 2025

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Luke 1:26–38 recounts the angel Gabriel’s visit to Mary, a young virgin in Nazareth pledged to Joseph. Gabriel announced that she would conceive by the Holy Spirit and give birth to Jesus, the Son of the Most High whose kingdom would never end. These claims directly contradicted what Mary knew to be possible, given her virginity and ordinary circumstances.

Gabriel also revealed that Mary’s older relative Elizabeth, who was thought to be unable to conceive, was already six months pregnant. Together, these were bold and humanly implausible claims.

Mary’s initial response was one of fear and questioning. She was “greatly troubled” (v.29) and asked, “How will this be?” (v.34). Yet she did not allow fear or limited understanding to define her response. As God affirmed His faithfulness, particularly through Elizabeth’s pregnancy, Mary moved from uncertainty to trust, ultimately surrendering in obedience: “I am the Lord’s servant. May your word to me be fulfilled.” (v.38)

DSP Sng shared that, like Mary, we can find faith to believe through two ways: understanding **the root of our faith** and **the fruit of our faith**.

TWO KEYS TO KNOWING OUR FAITH IS REAL

1) The Root of our Faith

At the heart of real faith is a simple but vital question: What is our faith truly built on? Mary’s response to God’s extraordinary promises in Luke 1 shows us that faith is not rooted in emotion, intellect, or human opinion, but in the proven faithfulness of God. DSP Sng shared that:

A) What we believe must be based on more than feelings. After hearing from Gabriel, Mary’s doubt and need for reassurances were real and intense. Yet she did not allow her feelings to define her reality. Every feeling is valid, but not every feeling is helpful or trustworthy as a foundation for faith.

B) What we believe must be based on more than our finite minds. Mary’s understanding was limited to what she could see: she saw herself as a virgin, from ordinary circumstances, and

Elizabeth as “unable to conceive.” She could not see the future or fully grasp God’s purposes. But faith begins where human understanding ends.

C) What we believe must be based on more than the words of Man. Human voices said Elizabeth could not have a child. God said otherwise. Importantly, God did not merely speak. His words were confirmed by His power.

D) The more evidence we have, the more it informs what we believe. If God was faithful in Elizabeth’s pregnancy and in Mary’s conception, Mary had no reason to doubt anything else He promised.

2) The Fruit of our Faith

Mary had to wait three months for Elizabeth’s pregnancy and nine months for her own to confirm whether God’s word was true. The space between hearing a promise and seeing its fulfilment is what we call the test of faith. Yet when faith is tested and proven, it produces conviction, confidence, and assurance in the One who made the promise.

This matters because there is one ultimate test of faith that can only be fully proven after we die: Is Jesus truly our Saviour? But until that day, God graciously strengthens our faith through lived experiences — moments where faith becomes undeniably real as He comes through in ways we cannot explain away.

Together, the Body of Christ becomes a collective body of evidence for our faith. Each verifiable, personal encounter with God is a reminder that He is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-loving — and it is especially powerful when that evidence is found in our own lives.

CONCLUSION

Real faith begins not with what we feel, understand, or hear from others, but with who God is. The root of our faith is confidence in the faithfulness of God — that His Word can be trusted even before we see the outcome. Like Mary, faith does not require us to have all the answers; it calls us to entrust ourselves to a God who does.

Yet faith does not remain theoretical. When God’s promises are tested over time and fulfilled in real life, faith bears fruit. Each answered prayer, each moment where God comes through, strengthens our conviction, deepens our confidence, and anchors our assurance in Him. These lived experiences become reminders that our faith is not wishful thinking.

QUESTIONS

1. What evidence of God's faithfulness have you experienced in your life or seen in the lives of others? Share your stories.

2. How do you usually respond during the 'waiting period' between God's promise and its fulfillment? What helps — or hinders — your faith during that time?

3. Mary had limited information but still chose to trust God. What are some "limits" (unknowns or uncertainties) you are facing right now that test your faith? How can you lean into God's promises to anchor us?