

Choosing Faith Over Fear in Your Stepfamily

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”
—Corrie ten Boom

Did you ever notice that when angels show up in the Bible, people get *really* scared?

Poor Mary. She was shaking in her, uh, sandals when Gabriel showed up with baby news. Wouldn't you think God would send a female angel for such a personal message? I'm thinking, “Hey, Sista girlfriend, have I got news for *you*!” kind of thing? It's quite possible this is why God does not appoint me to such tasks.

I digress.

We must understand that in Mary's culture, getting pregnant when unmarried was a massive predicament. Besides the shame associated, it was perfectly legal for her to be stoned to death for such immorality. Now we have a deeper understanding as to why she was so afraid.

But Mary chooses faith over fear. She quickly surrenders and says to Gabe, “I am the Lord's slave. May it be done to me according to your word” (see Luke 2:38).

Wow. Just like that.

If you are like me, I debate with God for a while when He calls me to do something that's unpleasant and fearful, especially in my stepfamily. Let's face it, my life might not be in jeopardy, but my heart and emotions are likely to take a severe beating.

And that's when He calls me to, “Fear not, Laura. I know what I'm doing. Trust me, Sista girlfriend. I got your back.”

“ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Listen, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son and shall call His name JESUS” (Luke 1:30-31). {eo}

Laura Petherbridge is an international speaker and published author of five books, who has appeared in numerous publications, TV shows and radio productions. A featured expert on the DivorceCare DVD series, she has been married to Steve for 32 years and has two stepsons who gifted her with two grandchildren. Learn more at .