

Crucial Corrective

Matthew 1:18-25

The angel, Gabriel, spoke directly to Zechariah and Mary. Joseph had a different experience with an unnamed angel, showing God speaks to us in a variety of ways. Joseph was considering his response to his shocking situation when an angel spoke to him in a dream and brought a crucial corrective to his plan. We all need crucial correctives at times and they happen through:

The Preceding Grace of Jesus

Orthodox theology refers to this as “prevenient grace”

Conception through the Holy Spirit

His name Jesus – “God is salvation”

Purpose to save his people from their sins (cross & resurrection)

Immanuel – God with us

A Willing Righteousness

Just

Unwilling to shame

Quiet action

Personal holiness

Listening to God

Angel

Holy Spirit (*Acts 2:16-21 quotes Joel 2:28-32*)

God’s word in scripture (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*)

Faithful witnesses (*Hebrews 12:1*)

Faithful Obedience to the Lord’s Commands

Without delay

Demonstrating the *obedience of faith* (*Romans 1:5, 16:26*)