

Oh, Yes, I do believe in Angels!
Christmas Eve Service 2020

Shirley Nelson

Yes, I do believe that there are angels among us. Four years ago, on this Christmas Eve Day, I was sitting with my mother in the Correctionville nursing home. We knew she was dying. She had just celebrated her 96th birthday the day before and we were pretty sure she would be in her heavenly home by Christmas. She was barely able to move but she turned her head to look out the window and slowly lifted her hand and waved at someone. Yes, I do believe that someone came after her and I think it may have been angels waiting outside her window to escort her to heaven.

I believe with all my heart that millions of angels are at God's command and at our service. They stand at attention ready to do God's will at any moment of any hour of any day. I believe that everyone who enters heaven is given an escort, sent from Jesus.

There is a wonderful Christmas story about three friends and their encounter with an angel. Don, Tim and Jim were college students from the Midwestern United States and they all attended the same university in Connecticut.

It was Christmas break time, 1983, and they were all looking forward to going home for the holidays. Don came from Fort Wayne, Indiana while Jim and Tim were from Chicago, Illinois.

As they traveled by automobile on their way home, they finally reached Indiana. They were now only two hours from Don's home in Fort Wayne.

The weather outside was bone-chilling cold and the ground was covered with heavy snow from a recent blizzard. The radio station they were listening to on the car radio was repeatedly giving weather updates and warnings advising travelers not to drive.

The wind chill factor had reached a record-setting 80 degrees below zero! To get stuck outside in this weather would be life-threatening.

Travel was slow but they finally arrived safely at Don's home in Fort Wayne. Because of the severe weather, Don's parents invited Tim and Jim to spend the night before proceeding on to their own homes in Chicago.

They wanted the boys to wait until the weather improved and it was safe to drive again, but these college students were anxious to get home for the holidays to their families in Chicago. After all, it was Christmas Eve and they had only four more hours of driving to reach their destination.

They sincerely thanked Don's parents for their generous offer but decided to brave the cold and snow and head home.

After leaving Don's house, Tim and Jim continued on their way home. They had traveled approximately 30 minutes and had finally reached the access road that would lead them to the toll expressway.

Tim's automobile had done well in the bitter cold, but now it was beginning to sputter and lose power. The access road they were traveling was eleven miles long and it had been built along a hillside. It was a higher road than the rest. They were able to look out the car windows and see the many roads below, but they saw no other cars traveling that night. There were no houses within miles.

They assumed that other travelers had heeded the weather warnings and made the smart choice to not travel on such a dangerous night.

Tim's automobile continued to lose more and more power - and then with one final sputter and moan, the engine completely stopped. They were stuck in the middle of nowhere on the frozen road.

Soon the inside of the car became freezing cold. No other cars were anywhere to be seen. To leave the vehicle and attempt to walk to safety would surely mean death. No one could survive more than a couple of minutes outside in these record cold temperatures. Their feet were getting so cold and their bodies were becoming numb.

They didn't know what to do, so in desperation, Tim began to pray. "Dear God, You are the only one who can help us now. Please help us dear God, please help us!"

Within moments, from out of nowhere, lights appeared shining brightly through their windows. How was this possible? They hadn't seen anyone coming and they had been watching closely for any sign of life at all. A big, strong-looking man approached their car and knocked on the window. "Need a tow fellas?" he asked.

Excitedly and with a sense of great relief the two boys climbed into the warm cab of the tow truck. From the cab the boys used the driver's truck phone and telephoned Don's house. They would be spending the night after all! However, they would need some additional money to pay the driver who had rescued them. Don's parents said they would be happy to help.

The tow-truck driver drove through Fort Wayne and back into the neighborhood where Don lived. They thanked the driver for rescuing them and asked him to wait just a moment while they went inside to borrow the money to pay him.

They jumped out of the cab and ran into Don's house. Don handed them the money they had asked to borrow and they hurried back outside, grateful to pay the driver, but the tow truck was gone!

Don and his parents joined them outside, also wanting to thank the driver. The boy's car was there, but there was no sign of the tow truck or its driver, nor was there any sign of a tow truck having ever been down that road.

Neither Don nor his family had heard any sound when they had arrived, even though they had been listening for them.

There were no tire tracks anywhere on the snow-covered road. There was no tow bill, no tow truck driver, no farewell, and no taillights that could be seen off in the distance. There was no evidence anywhere that any vehicle had even been down that road!

The boys had no explanation other than that the tow truck driver was an angel sent by God to answer their prayer.

So I ask all of you - do you believe in the existence of angels? Surely I do, because the Bible says that there ARE angels; and I believe the Bible to be the true Word of God, as written, from the first verse of Genesis to the last word of Revelation! In fact, Angels are mentioned in the Bible more than 300 times.

The Bible teaches us that God created angels. At one time no angels existed; there was nothing but the Holy Trinity, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul writes in Colossians 1:16 "For by him were all things created, that are in Heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible."

Angels are indeed among the invisible things made by God, for "all things were created by Him, and for Him."

The Bible tells us that angels have the ability to change their appearance and to travel instantly back and forth between the glory of Heaven above and the earth below.

Hebrews 1:14 calls angels "ministering spirits." They do not possess physical bodies, although they may take on the form of physical bodies when God appoints them to special tasks. Do you remember the television program, "Highway to Heaven" where angels were sent to earth in the form of earthly people to solve issues and to protect those who were in need. It was an entertaining program as well as very thought provoking.

Yes, I do believe in angels. I think they are all around us, there to protect us, to take care of us, to be our guardians when we are in trouble.

In Luke 1 we read the story of the angel Gabriel who appeared to Zacharias, father of John the Baptist, advising him that his wife, Elizabeth, would bare him a son and that he would be the forerunner of the coming Messiah.

Gabriel would appear again in Luke 1 with his most important appearance. He appears to the Virgin Mary with an important message for not only her, but for all mankind.

He speaks to her with some of the most wonderful words written in the Bible, a special message from God to Mary. "Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shall call his name Jesus....And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

In Matthew 1 an angel appeared to Joseph telling and assuring him that Mary was with child through the Holy Spirit, and not through another man.

Oh, Yes. I do believe in angels and I believe that they are on call at all times. They don't take vacation days. They don't take sick days. They don't take off for holidays. They never age and they are always ready and available to carry out God's plans and ready to fly at His request!

These angels of God are here to help us and they are prepared for any emergency, and Satan has no power compared to the Army of God that we call Angels.

Let us Pray: Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen